CONFIDENTIAL.] [No. 35 of 1912.

# REPORT

ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

## Week ending the 31st August 1912.

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# PART I OF WEEKLY REPORT.

## List of Vernacular Newspapers.

*(Corrected up to the 10th August 1912.)*

| No. | Name of Publication. | Where published. | Edition. | Name, caste and age of Editor. | Circulation. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| 1 | "Bangaratna" ... | Krishnagar ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Kanai Lal Das; Hindu, Karmokar; age 28 years ... ... | 1,500 |
| 2 | "Bangavasi" ... | Calcutta ... ... | Do. ... ... | Bihari Lal Sarkar, Kayastha, age 55 years; Hari Mohan Mukherji, Brahmin, age 43 years: Satyendra Kumar Basu. | 15,000 |
| 3 | "Bankura Darpan" | Bankura .. ... | Do. ... ... | Rama Nath Mukherji, V.L.M.S., Brahmin, age 51 years; Viswanath Mukharji, B.L., Brahmin, age 49 years. | 453 |
| 4 | "Barisal Hitaishi" | Barisal ... ... | Do. ... ... | Durga Mohan Sen, Baidya, age 35 years ... ... ... ... | 600 |
| 5 | "Banga Janani" | Rangpur (Bhotmari) | Do. ... ... | Sasi Mohan Adhikari, Baidya, age 37 years ... ... ... | ..... |
| 6 | "Basumati" ... | Calcutta ... ... | Do. ... ... | Sureschandra Samajpati; Hari Pada Adhikhari, age 41 years; Mani Lal Banerji, age 36 years. | 18,000 to 20,000 |
| 7 | "Birbhum Hitaishi" | Bolepur (Birbhum) | Do. ... ... | Dibakar Banerji; Hindu, Brahmin; age 43 years ... ... | 350 |
| 8 | "Birbhum Varta"... | Suri ( Do. ) | Do. ... ... | Debendra Nath Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 38 years ... | 960 |
| 9 | "Birbhum Vasi" ... | Rampurhat ( Do. ) | Do. ... ... | Nil Ratan Mukherji, B.A., Brahmin, age 44 years ... ... | 250 |
| 10 | "Biswadut" ... | Howrah ... ... | Do. .. ... | Nagendra Nath Pal Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha; age 36 years. | 1,500 |
| 11 | "Burdwan Sanjivani" | Burdwan ... ... | Do. ... ... | Probodhananda Sarkar, B.L., Kayastha, age 31 years ... | 500 |
| 12 | "Chabbis Pargana Vartavaha." | Bhowanipore... ... | Do. ... ... | Hem Chandra Nag, Kayastha, age 29 years ... ... ... | 500 to 700 |
| 13 | "Charumihir" ... | Mymensingh ... ... | Do. ... ... | Baikuntha Nath Sen, B.L., Kayastha, age 42 years ... ... | 7,100 |
| 14 | "Chinsura Varatavaha." | Chinsura ... ... | Do. ... ... | Dinanath Mukherji, Brahmin, age 46 years ... ... ... | 850 |
| 15 | "Dainik Chandrika" | Calcutta ... ... | Daily, except on Thursdays. | Hari Das Dutt and Kshetra Nath Sen ... ... ... | 4,000 |
| 16 | "Dacca Gazette" ... | Dacca ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Satya Bhusan Dutt Roy, Baidya, age 46 years ... ... | 80 |
| 17 | "Dacca Prakas" ... | Do. ... ... | Do. ... ... | Mukhunda Behari Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 42 years ... | 80 |
| 18 | "Dhruba Tara" ... | Mymensingh ... ... | Do. ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 19 | "Education Gazette" | Chinsura ... ... | Do. ... ... | Pandit Nibaran Chandra Bhattacharjee, Brahmin, age 56 years. | 1,500 |
| 20 | "Faridpur Hitaishini" | Faridpur ... ... | Fortnightly ... | Raj Mohan Mazumdar, Baidya, age about 72 years ... ... | ..... |
| 21 | "Gaud Dut" ... | Malda ... ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Krishna Chandra Agarwalla ... ... ... ... ... | ..... |
| 22 | "Hindu Ranjika" ... | Rajshahi ... ... | Do. ... ... | Kasinuddin Sarkar, Muhammadan, Printer, age 41 years ... | 185 |
| 23 | "Hindusthan" ... | Calcutta ... ... | Do. ... ... | Hari Das Dutt ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1,000 |
| 24 | "Hitavadi" ... ... | Do. ... ... | Do. ... ... | Anukul Chandra Mukherji and Sakharam Ganesh Deushkar | 20,000 to 30,000 |
| 25 | "Hitavarta" ... ... | Chittagong ... ... | Do. ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 26 | "Islam Rabi" ... | Mymensingh ... ... | Do. ... ... | Maulvi Nazimuddin Ahmad, Musalman, age about 35 years | 700 |
| 27 | "Jagaran" ... ... | Bagerhat ... ... | Do. ... ... | ..... | About 300 |
| 28 | "Jasohar" ... | Jessore ... ... | Do. ... ... | Ananda Mohan Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha ... ... | 500 |
| 29 | "Jyoti" ... ... | Chittagong ... ... | Do. ... ... | Kali Sankar Chakravati, Brahmin, age 47 years ... ... | 1,800 to 2,000 |
| 30 | "Kalyani" ... ... | Magura ... ... | Do ... ... | Biswesswar Mukherji, Brahmin, age 48 years ... ... | 500 |

| No. | Name of Publication. | Where published. | Edition. | Name, caste and age of Editor. | Circulation. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | BENGALI—*concld.* | | | | |
| 31 | "Kasipore Nibasi" ... | Barisal ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Pratap Chandra Mukherji; Brahmin: age 66 years ... ... | 500 |
| 33 | "Khulnavasi" ... | Khulna ... ... | Do. ... ... | Gopal Chandra Mukherji; Hindu, Brahmin, age 51 years | 350 |
| 33 | "Malda Samachar" | Malda ... ... | Do. ... ... | Kali Prasanna Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 42 years ... ... | 440 |
| 34 | "Manbhum" ... | Purulia ... ... | Do. ... ... | Bagala Charan Ghosh; Hindu, Kayastha; age 41 years ... | About 500 |
| 35 | "Midnapore Hitaishi" | Midnapore ... ... | Do. ... ... | Manmatha Nath Nag, Kayastha, age 35 years ... ... | 500 |
| 36 | "Medini Bandhab" | Ditto ... ... | Do. ... ... | Deb Das Karan; Hindu, Sadgop; age 44 years ... ... | 452 |
| 37 | "Mahamaya" ... | Chinsura ... ... | Do. ... ... | Hem Sasi Som, Kayastha, age 57 years ... ... ... | 150 |
| 38 | "Moslem Hitaishi"... | Calcutta ... ... | Do. ... ... | Shaik Abdur Rahim and Mozummul Haque ... ... ... | 4,000 to 5,000 |
| 39 | "Muhammadi" ... | Ditto ... ... | Do. ... ... | Muhammad Akram Khan, Musalman, age 37 years, and Maulvi Akbar Khan. | 2,000 |
| 40 | "Murshidabad Hitaishi." | Saidabad ... ... | Do. ... ... | Banwari Lal Goswami; Hindu, Brahmin; age 46 years ... | 200 |
| 41 | "Nayak" ... ... | Calcutta ... ... | Daily ... ... | Birendra Chandra Ghosh and Panchkari Banerjee ... ... | 1,500 to 3,000 |
| 42 | "Navavanga" ... | Chandpur ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Harendra Kisore Ray, Kayastha, age 25 years ... ... ... | 502 |
| 43 | "Noakhali Samuliani" | Noakhali ... ... | Do. ... ... | Sasi Bhushan Das, Kayastha ... ... ... ... ... | 200 |
| 44 | "Nihar" ... ... | Contai ... ... | Do. ... ... | Madhu Sudan Jana, Brahmo, age 43 years ... ... ... | 300 |
| 45 | "Pallivarta" ... | Bongong ... ... | Do. ... ... | Charu Chandra Ray; Hindu, Kayastha; age 38 years ... | 500 |
| 46 | "Pallivasi" ... | Kalna ... ... | Do. ... ... | Sasi Bhushan Banerji, age 47 years ... ... ... ... | 300 |
| 47 | "Pabna Hitaishi" | Pabna ... ... | Do. ... ... | Basanta Kumar Vidyavinode, Bhattacharyya, Brahmin, age 36 years. | 500 |
| 48 | "Praja Bandhu" ... | Tippera ... ... | Fortnightly ... | Munshi Muhammad Ali Mean, Musalman, age 53 years ... | 200 |
| 49 | "Prasun" ... | Katwa ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Purna Chandra Chatterji, Brahmin age 47 years, and Banku Behary Ghose, Goala, age 41 years. | 618 |
| 50 | "Pratikar" ... | Berhampur ... ... | Do. ... ... | Kamakshya Prasad Ganguly, Brahmin, age 64 years ... | 503 |
| 51 | "Purulia Darpan"... | Purulia ... ... | Do. ... ... | Amulya Ratan Chatterji, Brahmin, age 41 years ... ... | About 700 |
| 52 | "Rajsakti" ... ... | Do. ... ... | Do. ... ... | Bagala Charan Ghosh, Kayastha, age 41 years ... ... | 110 |
| 53 | "Ratnakar" ... | Asansol ... ... | Do. ... ... | Satya Kinkar Banerji, Brahmin, age 26 years ... ... ... | 500 |
| 54 | "Rangpur Durpan" | Rangpur (Bhotmari) | Do. .. ... | Braja Nath Basak; Hindu, Tanti; age 52 years ... ... | 200 |
| 55 | "Rangpur Dikprakas" | Ditto ditto ... | Do. ... ... | Hara Sarkar Maitra, Brahmin, age 66 years ... ... | 300 |
| 56 | "Samay" ... ... | Calcutta ... ... | Do. ... ... | Jnanendra Nath Das, M.A., B.L., Brahmo, age 58 years ... | 500 to 800 |
| 57 | "Sanjaya" ... ... | Faridpur ... ... | Do. ... ... | Rama Nath Ghosh, Kayastha, age about 38 years ... ... | 500 |
| 58 | "Sanjivani" ... ... | Calcutta ... ... | Do. ... ... | Lalit Mohan Das, late Professor, City College; Sibnath Sastri, M.A; Ramananda Chatterji, M.A., Editor, "Modern Review," etc.; K. K. Mitter. | 11,000 |
| 59 | "Sansodhini" ... | Chittagong ... ... | Do. ... ... | Kashi Chandra Das Gupta, Brahmo, age 60 years ... ... | 400 |
| 60 | "Suhrid" ... ... | Perojpur ... ... | Fortnightly ... | Ram Chandra Pal, Kayastha ... ... ... ... ... | 200 |
| 61 | "Subarnabanik" ... | Calcutta ... ... | Weekly ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 62 | "Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika." | Ditto ... ... | Do. ... ... | Rasik Mohan Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 39 years, and Mrinal Kanti Ghosh. | 2,500 |
| 63 | "Siksha Samachar" | Dacca ... ... | Do. ... ... | Abinas Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Baidya, age 36 year ... | ..... |
| 64 | "The Calcutta Advertiser" | Calcutta ... ... | Do. ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 65 | "Tippera Guide" ... | Comilla ... ... | Do. ... ... | ..... | ..... |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | BENGALI—*concld.* | | | | |
| 66 | "Tippera Hitaishi" | Tippera ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Kamaniya Kumar Singha, Brahmo, age 23 years ... ... | 7 |
| 67 | "Vartabaha" ... | Ranaghat ... ... | Do. ... ... | Girija Nath Mukherji; Hindu, Brahmin, age 41 years ... | 500 to 600 |
| 68 | "Viswavarta" ... | Dacca ... ... | Do. ... ... | Abinash Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L.; Hindu, Baidya, age 36 years. | 1,000 |
| | HINDI. | | | | |
| 69 | "Bajrangi Samachar" | Jamore (Gaya) ... | Monthly ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 70 | "Bharat Mitra" ... | Calcutta ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Ambika Prasad Bajpayi ... ... ... ... ... ... | About 4,000 |
| 71 | "Dainik Bharat Mitra" | Do. ... ... | Daily ... ... | Ambica Prasad Bajpayi, Hindustani, Brahmin, age 45; (2), Panchcowri Banerji, age, 50, Brahmin. | 300 |
| 72 | "Bihar Bandhu" ... | Patna ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Mahabir Parsad Bania ... ... ... ... ... ... | 400 |
| 73 | "Biharee" ... | Bankipore ... ... | Do. ... ... | Akhauri Basudeo Narayan Singh and Purushottam Parsad Sarma. | 700 |
| 74 | "Ghar Bandhu" ... | Ranchi ... ... | Fortnightly ... | Rev. Dr. A. Nottrott ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1,250 |
| 75 | "Hindi Bangavasi" | Calcutta ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Hari Krishna Joahar, Khetri, age 36 years ... ... ... | 1,500 |
| 76 | "Hitvarta" ... | Do. ... ... | Do. ... ... | Babu Rao Paradkar; Mahratta, Brahmin; age 30 years ... | 3,000 to 4,000 |
| 77 | "Lakshmi" ... | Gaya ... ... | Monthly ... ... | Mahadeo Parsad, age 38 years ... ... ... ... ... | 200 |
| 78 | "Marwari" .. ... | Calcutta ... ... | Weekly ... ... | R. K. Tebriwalla; Hindu, Agarwalla; age 41 years ... ... | 500 |
| 79 | "Narad" ... ... | Chapra ... ... | Daily ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 80 | "Narad" ... ... | Do. ... ... | Weekly ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 81 | "Siksha" ... ... | Bankipore .. ... | Do. ... ... | Pandit Sakal Narayan Pandey Kavyatirtha, Brahmin ... | 200 |
| 82 | "Mithila Mihir" ... | Darbhanga ... ... | Do. ... ... | Pandit Joganand Kumar ... ... ... ... ... ... | 600 |
| 83 | "Teli Samachar" ... | Bar ... ... ... | Monthly ... ... | ..... | ..... |
| 84 | "Tirhut Samachar" | Muzaffarpur ... ... | Weekly ... ... | Sangeswar Prasad Sarma, Brahmin ... ... ... ... | 400 |
| | URDU. | | | | |
| 85 | "Al Punch" ... | Bankipore ... | Do. ... ... | Syed Ahsan, Muhammadan, age 40 years ... ... ... | 500 |
| 86 | "Darul Hukumat" | Calcutta ... ... | Weekly and bi-weekly. | Hafiz Bux Ellahi, Muhammadan, age 42 years ... ... ... | 1,000 |
| 87 | "Durbar Gazette"... | Do. ... ... | Daily ... ... | Nawab Ali, Muhammadan ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1,000 |
| 88 | "Star of India" ... | Arrah ... ... ... | Weekly ... .. | Muhammad Zahurul Haque, Muhammadan, age 61 years ... | 657 |
| | PERSIAN. | | | | |
| 89 | "Hablul Matin" ... | Calcutta ... ... | Weekly and daily | Syed Jelaluddin, Shiah Muhammadan, age 61 years ... | 1,000 |
| | URIYA. | | | | |
| 90 | "Garjatbasini" ... | Talchar State ... | Weekly ... ... | Bhagirathi Misra, Brahmin, age 43 years ... ... ... | In Orissa. |
| 91 | "Sambalpur Hitaishini." | Deoghar ... ... | Do. ... ... | Dina Bandhu Gornayak, Chasa, age 37 years ... ... ... | Do. |
| 92 | "Samvad Vaheka" | Balasore ... ... | Do. ... | Kasinath Panda, Brahmin, age 37 years ... ... ... | 1400 |
| 93 | "Uriya and Navasamvad." | Balasore ... ... | Do. ... ... | Ram Tarak Sen; Hindu, Tamli age 50 year ... ... ... | 450 |
| 94 | "Utkal Varta" ... | Calcutta ... | Do. ... ... | Hrisikesh Pandey Kaviraj ... ... .. ... ... ... | 500 |
| 95 | "Utkal Dipika" ... | Cuttack ... ... | Do. ... ... | Gouri Sankar Ray ... ... ... ... ... . . ... | 1,200 |

## PART I OF WEEKLY REPORT.

*Additions to, and alterations in, the list of Vernacular Newspapers as it stood on the 10th August 1912.*

| No. | Name of Publication. | Where published. | Edition. | Name, caste and age of Editor. | Circulation. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chandravanshiya Rewani Hitkari. | Dinapore ... | Monthly ... | ..... | ..... |
| 2 | Al-Modabbir ... ... | Bankipore ... | Weekly ... | ..... | ..... |
| 3 | Al-Hilal ... ... | Calcutta ... | Do. ... | ..... | ..... |

No. 73—"The Biharee" has ceased to exist.

## I—Foreign Politics.

Reproducing a translation of the speeches delivered in the English Parliament on affairs in Persia the *Nama-i-Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 19th August says:—The speeches of the well-wishers of Persia in the English Parliament, as well as the charges brought against Sir Edward Grey, are all based upon facts. In spite of all his efforts, Sir Edward Grey would not be able to exonerate himself from those charges. His speech does not appear to have any practical value, for it cannot be conceived that Russia would have done more (violence) but for the Anglo-Russian Convention. Sir Edward Grey holds that the influence of Russia had, from a long time, increased in North Persia but the question is, did Russia, ever before, interfere so much as she did after the agreement? The replies of Sir Edward Grey are all intended to silence his critics, and to give a cover to his own political blunders. We should say that Sir Edward Grey has, in order to gain the friendship of Russia and avert the hostility of Germany, invited dangers not only to Persia but to India also. Politicians are of opinion that, instead of gaining any advantage, England would lose by his policy. In a few years Russia and Germany would join hands in injuring the interests of the English Government in Central Asia.

Nama-i-Muqaddas Hablul Matin, Aug. 19th, 1912.

Persia in the English Parliament.

The Trans-Persian Railway would be beneficial to Persia only, in case her sovereignty remains intact, the line is practically made international, the Persian treasury is not made to bear the burden of cash security, Persian gendermarie are appointed to guard the line throughout, and lastly a share is given to Persia also in its construction.

The well-wishers of Persia should, therefore, instead of opposing the scheme try to secure the above privileges. If Persia becomes strong and retains her sovereignty, no danger would lie to India, otherwise she would certainly, be exposed to it, whether there be a railway or no railway. We concur with Sir Edward Grey in holding that Persia cannot remain long withont railways, for, in a year or two, Germany is sure to extend the Baghdad line up to Khankin, while Russia would also extend her railways up to Julfa and Astara. How can then such a vast tract of country remain without railways, in spite of the Potsdam interview? When a (railway) line is completed in a country, there is no doubt that it would have branches running in all directions. To check such a natural course would be simply foolish. The safety of India, therefore, requires that the sovereignty and independence of Persia should be preserved.

2. The *Nama-i-Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 19th August writes:—Politicians are of opinion that the present changes and revolutions in Turkey, though apparently arising from the internal dissensions, are really due to the rivalry of the two Triple Alliances, viz., Germany, Italy and Austria on the one hand, and Russia, England and France on the other. From the history of Constantinople, it would appear that it has always been the seat of the political and economical rivalry of England and Germany. Other Powers, too, like Russia, Austria and France, etc., have in their turn got their influence there, but these two rivals have thrown them in the background. Sometimes the English and sometimes the Germans have been getting the upper hand in gaining influence in Constantinople, but for the past fifteen years, *i.e.*, in the latter part of Abdul Hamid's reign, the German influence in the Sultan's court was supreme. As long as Russia had her influence in the Far East, the English did not care for the growing influence of Germany, but when Russia's influence declined in that quarter, the English came to realize that Germany's supremacy in the Near East and Asia Minor, for any length of time, would mean a complete hold over Constantinople also. It was, therefore, that Abdul Hamid's dethronement was brought about by the young Turks under the designation of the "Society for Union and Progress," and this event gave the English an opportunity to recover their lost influence in Constantinople Germany tried her best to gain the young Turks or the "Society for Union

Nama-i-Muqaddas Hablul Matin, Aug. 19th, 1912.

The Political tricks of Europe.

and Progress" over to her side by giving them loans, etc., but they did not renounce England for her.

At last, fearing that if Turkey joins the Triple Alliance of England, France and Russia it would be impossible for her to protect her economical and political rights in the near East and Asia Minor, Germany brought about the present invasion of Tripoli and Barqut-ul-Hamra (?) by the Italians, in the hope that it would compel the new Government of Turkey to throw itself into the arms of Germany once more. The firmness and bravery displayed by the Young Turks, in spite of the want of resources and provisions, led Italy to extend the war into the Dardanelles notwithstanding her promises to keep the war confined to Tripoli alone. As the "Society for Union and Progress" remained still firm and showed no inclination to come to terms, a new trick has now been played in the form of raising internal dissensions. A "Military Society" has been formed in Adrianpole, to work against the "Society for Union and Progress." Albania was set to revolt and Macedonia was also prepared for it. It was to this purpose that the King of Bulgaria had an interview with the Emperors of Austria and Germany in Vienna and Berlin, and an agreement was come to by Bulgaria, Servia, and Greece to stand against Turkey. In reality, the naval union of France and Russia and the strengthening of the Triple Alliance, were due to these very tricks of the (other) Triple Alliance. No wonder, therefore, if there be chaos in Turkey, revolution in the Balkans and dissensions among the members of the Tripe Alliance. If the Turkish politicians succeed in establishing a firm Government, whether with the help of the "Society for Union and Progress" or that of the "Military Society" and, in view of their present critical condition, make alliance with some strong Power, they may profit by the present revolution. But if these internal dissensions go on increasing the external revolt, this fire which has been flamed by our politicians would consume the Islamic household. Either of the two groups of the Powers which may stand up to help Turkey now may, ere long, prove veritable wolves to her. At present the salvation of the Turks lies in their bidding farewell to selfish motives, uniting together and trying to save the country without the help of the foreigners, otherwise their disease would be past all remedy and repentence would come too late.

The Turkish politicians should look deeply and understand the policy (of the foreigners) which has set each of them against the others, and should find out their (foreigner's) motive in so doing. They should bear in mind that the object of freindship or enmity which the Europeans make is meant for their own benefit. They care little for the "Society for Union and Progress" or the "Military Society." We hope that, at this critical moment the members of the "Society for Union and Progress" would look to their future, join hands with the present Cabinet, extinguish the fire which is consuming themselves and not submit to the foreign yoke. Europe's plan at present is to efface Islam by all means and everywhere, Morocco, Persia, Turkey or Afghanistan.

Take lesson from my fate and take to the path of Truth ; Beware lest such evil days befall you.

## II—Home Administration.

### (*a*)—*Police.*

Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika, Aug. 22nd, 1913.

The Calcutta Police Administration Report.

3. Reviewing the report on the working of the Calcutta and Suburban Police during the last year, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August says :—

Had the report been made a little more simple and explicit than what it is, it would have been possible for people to form an idea as to how the police worked. It has been simply said that offending Policemen were punished, but no actual numbers have been given Again, it has been said that many policemen resigned during the year under review, and that the condition of recruitment was not satisfactory. This is what one will but naturally expect. Can a constable live on Rs. 9 or a Sub-Inspector on Rs. 50 per month, with his

family? Many an honest policeman had, therefore, to resign service owing to straitened circumstances.

*Gundaism* in Calcutta.

4. Referring to the murder recently committed by *gundas* in the Calcutta Police Court during business hours, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August, blames the police for not effectively checking *gundaism* in the city, and requests the Police Commissioner to pay more attention to stamping out the gangs of *gundas* than to regulating traffic in the public roads.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

Alleged demolition of a *masjid*.

5. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August publishes the following correspondence:—

MUHAMMADI, Aug. 23rd, 1913

DEMOLITION AND DESECRATION OF A *Masjid*.

There is a village named Digambarpore under the Krishnaganj thana, near Krishnagar, on the Dhabala river. Sixty families live in this village, of which seven are Musalman and all the rest Hindu. The Hindus of the locality are powerful, while the Musalmans are very poor and indigent. Among the Hindus there are eight families of zemindars. These zemindars keep a large number of cows, for which they do not engage any cow-boys, so that the animals stray into the fields of the poor Musalmans and eat their crops. Finding no other means of preventing this destruction of crops, the Musalmans put four of the cows into a pound. At this, the zemindars were fired with anger; they appeared in the houses of the Musalmans with six ploughs, plough-cattle, seeds of pea and a large number of *lathials*, ploughed the court-yards of the houses and sowed the seeds in them. Afterwards they proceeded to plough the *Idgah* in front of the local *masjid*. Darshan Ali Mandal, the Imam of the *masjid*, appeared before them with joined palms and a piece of cloth round his neck, and besought them not to plough this place, where Musalmans pray on the occasion of the *Id* festival. Thereupon, Babus Indu Bhushan Ray, Aswini Kumar Ray and Nanigopal Ray were highly incensed and said, why the *Idgah* and the courtryard of the *masjid* alone, break down even the *Jumma* house. Then these three zemindars and Babus Jatindra Gopal Ray, Sasibhushan Ray, Mathur Ray, Sadu Ghosh, and Sisinda Ray, and porter Bhushan Dai, servant Prannath, Hari Tanti, Mati Dai, Behari Muchi, Dai Muchi and many other *lathials* razed the holy *masjid* to the ground in an instant. This occurred on the morning of Monday, the sixth *Sravan*. Oh, what a horrible incident, what a fearful oppression, the report of which makes one's hairs stand on end. Brother Musalmans, what do you hear? A few Hindu zemindars have demolished a holy *masjid* in broad daylight, and you are still sitting idle? Be resolved all of you to get reparation for this. And, O kind Governor, Lord Carmichael, will not Your Excellency give your meek Musalman subjects justice for the horrible oppression which heartless rascally Hindu zemindars have committed on them, for this interference with their religion and this insult to the *Jumma* house? You are the ruler of the vast province of Bengal. To whom shall we cry, if not to you? Be kind enough to order a sifting enquiry into the above incident and do the needful. A case on the above incident was instituted in the criminal court of Nadia on the 24th July last, and its hearing will commence on the 24th August. But the complainants are very poor and have no money wherewith to properly carry on the case. They have not even been able to engage pleaders and mukhtears. Brother Musalmans, wherever you may be, save the honour of your religion by rendering pecuniary help to these men. If to-day you do not try to save this *masjid*, to-morrow you will not be able to save the others. All donations should be sent by money-order post to Pir Muhammad Mondal, village Digambarpur, Post-office, Khal Boalia, District Nadia. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Anjuman-e-Etterfag-Islamia will prove the usefulness of the association by properly looking after this case.

On warrants being issued, all the accused persons had absconded. On the 13th August two of them were arrested, but the remaining nine are still at large.

SHAIKH MUHAMMAD JAMIRUDDIN,

*Islam-preacher.*

Noticing the regoing, the editor says that the incident complained of is so diabolical that had the correspondence been written by a less reputed and trustworthy person than the well-known Islam preacher of Nadia, who personally came to the *Muhammadi* office and testified to the correctness of the facts contained in it, he would never have allowed it to be published in the paper. But considering the trustworthy character of the correspondent, he has been obliged to publish it with a view to drawing the attention of the District Magistrate of Nadia to it. If the incident is true, the Crown ought to take up the case as complainant. Moreover, the oppressed Musalmans being very poor, the charitably disposed Musalman public ought to come forward with pecuniary help for the management of the case.

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August gives the following cases of oppression on tea-garden coolies:—

Ill-treatment of tea-garden coolies.

(1) A correspondent writes that a party of 60 coolies from Chapaguri Mauza in Kumrup, had been enticed to work on the Kan-Khani tea-garden in Akipur in Jalpaiguri. While employed on the estate they fell ill. They had to work hard to supplement their poor wages in spite of their bad health, and ultimately decided to leave their work. The garden sardar, in order that they might not leave, got the manager to stop payment of their wages. Rupees 30 or so was the amount due to each of them at the end of the month, but they got only a rupee each week per head. They were told that they would not be paid their wages till the expiry of nine months. On the coolies threatening the garden authorities with a law suit for their money, the garden manager got them thrashed, so much so, that four of them were in a precarious condition.

(2) Babu Sasindra Chandra Sinha of Karimganj, mentions the case of one Adhar Chandra Mandal of Rajband, in Saktera Thana in Bankura, who has found that a truant brother of his, Haripada by name, is working in the Hati Khira tea-garden, 16 miles from Karimganj. This Haripada is a well-to-do man with some amount of education, and his brother cannot think that he has voluntarily agreed to work as a coolie. The natural inference is that he has been forcibly sent there by some *arkathi*. He is too young to sign the contract of a coolie. If, therefore, the garden authorities do not let him off, the police should move to secure his release.

(3) A coolie employed on the Magura tea estate (Karimjanj subdivision) lately died, and the manager reported that it was a case of accidental death. But the coolie's wife stated to the Daroga of the Ratabari outpost, that her husband had been kept confined in a room by the manager and subjected to ill-treatment. The dead body had been found in that same room the following morning. Medical examination has disclosed that the coolie died of hurts received. The matter is now under inquiry by the subdivisional officer of Karimganj and the Assistant Superintendent of Police.

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August writes that dacoities are too frequent in the districts of Dacca, Backerganj and 24-Parganas. Special measures are necessary to check this crime in these places. If the police in these places cannot detect the offenders, let rewards be offered for the unearthing of the criminals, and the money for the rewards found by deductions from the salaries of the local police officers. Such a "punitive" system for the police might do some good.

Dacoities in Bengal.

SANJIVANI, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

8. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August refers to the case of three Gurkhas accused recently of murdering some people in a liquor shop at Darjeeling, and points out that cases of Gurkha oppression in Darjeeling are not rare. Let Lord Carmichael prevent these. Unless the lives and properties of the people are safe, there can be no peace in the country.

Murder by Gurkhas at Darjeeling.

(*b*)— *Working of the Courts.*

DAILY BHARAT MITRA, Aug. 27th, 1912.

9. In commenting on Justice Chatterjee's finding in the Midnapore Damage Suit from, what the paper calls, a common sense point of view, the *Daily Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th August writes:—

Justice Chatterjee's decision—a puzzle.

Justice Chatterjee agrees with Justice Fletcher in considering the story of the bomb and its circulation, etc., to be concocted and false. No evidence

has been produced to prove the existence of the subscription lists, photos of the bombs, picric acid, etc., in Midnapore. The informer is a drunkard and any talk about bomb, etc., before him or in the house of a public worman is highly improbable, etc., etc. Justice Chatterjee was, therefore, of opinion that there was no conspiracy by Vakils, Zamindars and Mr. K. B. Dutt, to murder a British official or subvert the English Government.

If the information about the manufacture of bomb is not correct, the confessions by Santosh and Suren mnst be false. The question then is, how were they made? It has been proved that both the accused police officers had free access into the jail and, he, says the Judge, has no doubt that threats and inducements were used to obtain the confessions that were not made till old Pyari was put in jail. Justice Chatterjee is, therefore, plainly of opinion that the Midnapore Bomb case was got up and false, but he does not expressly say who concocted it. It is clear, however, from what has been said above that if the Maulvi and Lalmohan did not actually obtain the confessions they helped a good deal in obtaining them. No one, after perusing Justice Chatterjee's judgment can declare that the conspiracy case was not concocted by the Police.

Justice Chatterjee does not believe that Mr. Weston used any threats to Pyari for inducing him to ask his son to confess, because of his (Mr. Weston's) position, and the knowledge that a confession induced by threat has no value, but the judge admits that Mr. Weston ordered Pyari's arrest and that Santosh confessed as a result of the arrest, but he does not think that an officer of Mr. Weston's position would have stooped so low. The question to be determined here is not of stooping or not stooping but of probability and human nature. Both, these, however go against Mr. Weston. Justice Chatterjee has acquitted Mr. Weston no doubt, but thoughtful men are at issue with him on this point. Justice Chatterjee agrees with Justice Fletcher in thinking that the accused did not believe the reports of the informers, but considering the state of things in Midnapore at the time, the probability is of their believing them. It is curious that the judge takes this state of things in justification of the conduct of the accused but discards (lit., forgets) it when considering the question of Mr. Weston's issuing threats to Pyari.

Justice Chatterjee, again, agrees with Justice Fletcher in disbelieving the defence witnesses about the reports. From this it is clear that the Maulvi and Lal Mohan obtained the confessions from Santosh and Suren by using threats.

Quoting the passage in which Justice Chatterjee has tried to prove the innocence of the Maulvi and Lal Mohan, the paper goes on: Justice Chatterjee has done a good deal of plating and polishing here, but he has not been able to turn brass into gold. He admits the pressure on Pyari, producing of false witnesses, etc., these doings he says earned a bad name for the two police officers, all this was not done to prove a false case to be a true one. They had recourse to every unfair means but they did not consider the reports to be false. Nice logic. The more we consider the case the more puzzling it becomes, for reasoning does not lead to the conclusion at which Justice Chatterjee arrives. It may be, Bengal has long been a seat of logic, and now Justice Chatterjee wants, it appears, to turn her out of the country. We regret we have to write this in respect of an able countryman of ours, but duty is above all consideration.

NAYAK, Aug. 21st, 1912.

10. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st August has the following in an article under the heading "Black and White":—

The Midnapore case.

It is better to speak out frankly. A perusal of the judgment in the Midnapore case has made us lose all respect for Mr. Justice Woodroffe. To retain on the High Court Bench, a judge who cannot control his anger while doing judicial work, who, with sleeves tucked up, engages himself in a fight of words with the judge of a lower court, and who does not feel ashamed to use in his judgment language of antagonism such as can be found only in newspaper columns, would enhance rather than lessen the disgrace of the English nation. We should like to ask, whose money it is from which the judges of the High Court are paid. It is what the five crores of the men and women of Bengal give, that feeds and nourishes the High Court. If the *Feringhi* papers such as the *Englishman*, the *Journal*, the *Pioneer*, the *Statesman* and others can raise an outcry for the resignation

of Mr. Justice Fletcher, why should not then the five crores of the black people of Bengal, by way of antagonism, desire the dismissal of Mr. Justice Woodroffe? When the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* have sounded the trumpet of antagonism why should the black Bengali remain silent? If you strike us a blow we will give you a blow in return. We spoke quite frankly in our issue of last Friday. But as your party of English busybodies, such as the *Pioneer* and others, have begun to talk mischief, we have also been obliged to turn round and speak in a new strain. If, however, the English community represented by the *Englishman* be puffed up with arrogance and retort by saying, "Are the black men so impudent as to talk against us?" and try to involve us into difficulties, then, of course, we shall have to remain mute.

Let us ask, do you want to vest the District Magistrate with the arbitrary powers of a Nawab? Do you mean that he should do anything and everything with impunity? But is not the situation already so for all practical purposes? The District Magistrate now does whatever he likes; and will not the results of these two cases make him more autocratic than ever? You can get an idea of what a Mufussal Magistrate is from the cases which come up to the High Court now and then. Why then do you want him to be vested with greater powers? Well, we will answer the question. You hate the black people and are indifferent to their interests. If the black folk stand up in opposition to the District Magistrate, you are beside yourself with anger and indignation. May be, your Magistrate comes out of an English family of low paupers, possessing no hearth and home, having nobody in the world to call his own, and without any position of honour in any stratum of the society; but neverthless, he will, as soon as he becomes a District Magistrate in India, walk upon the heads of great Rajput Zemindars, and spit at the faces of eminent Brahmin legislators. And the black people must submit to all this. But they cannot bear this state of things any longer. Numbers of these black men are now going to England, getting acquainted with real state of your internal affairs, and learning fully well how to value you all at your true respective worth. The stories they tell of you pass from mouth to mouth throughout our community. As for your little doings in India, that is all an open book to us. The domestic affairs of your community here are by and by made public through the mouths of your bearers, jamadars, khansamas, cooks, ayahs, etc. Now tell us, how can we, in these circumstances, adore and respect you? We can see that you are not a whit superior to us, that the adultation of all the worthless nondescripts among our countrymen turn your heads and lead you to do things you should not, and that although the black people who are in Government service are your subordinates, they keep you under their thumbs and twist and turn you whichever way they like. Many of your District Magistrates are far inferior to our Babus in service as regards education, intelligence and ability. We get from them various proofs of your ignorance. Can we then remain crouching any more in fear of your faces, which are red like a copper kettle? Is it possible for us to slave under you, bowing down to all your commands? It is you who have, by spreading high education in this country, opened our eyes and emboldened us to speak, and thus laid the axe at the root of the awe which we used to have of you.

Then again, there is another difficulty. You have now made India into a preserve for maintaining your never-do-wells. Every ignorant and ill-mannered Englishman, who fails to find a living in his own country, comes out to India, becomes a Magistrate, a head of the Police, or the lord of a district. On the other hand, the black Bengali is making great progress in English education and is getting himself thoroughly acquainted with all your political moves. He now exposes the stupidity of many of you. The public, therefore, will not be frightened even if the District Magistrate be made as dreadful as the god of death himself. People now try to protect their lives and honour by appealing to the law. Afterwards they will do so by bamboozling, flattering and deceiving particular English officials, who may happen to be as idiotic as the ass. There are some questions to which you have not been able, and will never be able, to give us satisfactory answers. We will put those questions to you again. So long as Mr. Weston was in Midnapore the whole district was in a tremor. How was it that the place became quiet again during the administration of Mr. Gourlay and Mr. Bradley Birt? Why was it

that the adjoining district of Bankura did not take fire, although the flame was applied to it? How did Mr. Blackwood, who succeeded Mr. Clarke, restore peace to Mymensingh? What is the reason of a district remainig quiet under the able management of one Magistrate, and bursting into a blaze under the oppression of another? What are the virtues, the possession of which enabled Mr. Hughes-Buller to quell the disturbances of Barisal? What is the secret of Mr. Beatson-Bell being so dearly loved by us? Let us have the answers to these questions. The country is yours, the Empire is yours, the zemindary is yours, and you can break your egg on the wrong end if you like. If you sow the wind, you will reap the whirlwind. But bear in mind that the black men of India do not die, they do not know how to die, they shall never die. There may be Plague and Malaria in the land, Cholera and Small-Pox may obtain, so to say, a permanent tenure in the country, but the black Bengali shall never die, he has not been dead as yet nor shall he die in the future. The Bengali, regardless of everything even his own self, has given to you whatever he had to call his own; he followed you like a shadow and trumpeted your triumph throughout the length and breadth of India. Do you think that you will be able to be happy if you break with that self-same Bengali? High-minded statesmen like Lord Hardinge and Lord Carmichael know and understand all this, and so they are bringing about a complete change in the policy of administration in India. But English penny-a-liners, representatives of the great English nation, are about to spoil everything by their monkeyish pranks. A number of journalistic monkeys have torn asunder* and rolled in the dust the pearl necklace of affection, which Lord Hardinge had been knitting up. It is this circumstance that grieves us so much. And that is why we addressed ourselves to Lord Hardinge yesterday and said, "It is very good of you to have adopted Homeopathic treatment, but you will be able to do real work only when you bring in physicians who are versed in Homeopathy. It will not be possible to carry on this sweet system of Homeopathic treatment, with the help of the pugnacious people who had so long been ruling the country by the *lathi*"

* The allusion is to the Monkey Chief Hanuman tearing asunder the pearl necklace presented to him by Ram's consort, Sita.

The things that the *Englishman*, the *Statesman* and the *Pioneer* are saying every day in connection with the Midnapore case compel us to speak out; or else we would have kept silent over the affair. Government has not yet done everything in the matter, and we do not think it is at all to blame. Whatever we have been saying all these days is meant for white journalists; and if necessary we shall say more. We will, however, ask the Government to bear one thing in mind—if this affair makes the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Fletcher resign there will be great trouble, and people will lose all faith in the English system of justice. Take care of the black people.

In another leaderette the paper observes:—

The *Englishman* proposes, and the *Statesman* supports the proposal, that Mr. Weston should be compensated with the proverbial presents of a half of a kingnom and a princess. Mr. Clarke of Mymensingh fame, will also have to be compensated. Is then the Indian Empire te be divided between the two? Why not present them with a palace? We would suggest that "Belvedere" should be made over to them as a gift. There are now many Government buildings empty in Calcutta and they can very well be presented to Civilian worthies like them. Alas for you, Lord Hardinge! We are afraid, the good work you have in contemplation will be spoiled by the impst—your subordinate officials.

11. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August writes:— NAYAK, Aug. 23rd, 1913.

The Midnapore case.

The Midnapur case is the talk of the hour. We do not think any other case before the High Court ever produced such a sensation. We have not yet seen a single Indian who does not feel deeply aggrieved at reading this judgment. Every one seems to be dissatisfied, and in a state of despair. It is only the *Englishman*, the *Statesman*, the *Pioneer* and some such papers and probably many members of Anglo-Indian society as well, who are pleased at this judgment. Let them be, there is nothing to be sorry for in that. But this much is certain, that though everybody in the country may not be a lawyer, all of them are not

fools, they can promptly come to a decisive opinion when a certain matter comes within their cognisance. Thus, the people of the country had come to form an opinion of their own, after a perusal of the evidence adduced in this Midnapore case before the court from time to time. As the judgment of the Appeal Bench is now found not to concide with that opinion the public are startled, cut to the quick, filled with despair.

Though every man in the country may not be learned in the law, they know that law and common sense cannot be different. If that which people can understand by means of common sense is sought to be disguised curiously under the cover of the law, and to be made to appear differently from what it is, common sense leads people to cherish a feeling of antagonism thereto. Long before this judgment in the Midnapore case was delivered, people exercising their common sense had formed their own opinion of it. If the judgment of the Appeal Bench now upsets the conclusions arrived at by the exercise of common sense, people will naturally be filled with great regret and despair, they cannot but be cut to the quick. That is why this judgment is now the talk of the hour.

Mr. Justice Woodroffe in his judgment has not been content merely with abusing the plaintiff and his witnesses. He has also abused unjustifiably the plaintiff's Counsel; indeed, he has not even failed to attack the Judge of the lower court. This cannot be called impartial justice. In every word, in every line of the judgment this is particularly manifest. We are not lawyers, so we cannot discuss and find fault with it in detail.

The public idea is that the judgments in this and in the Clarke case have taken their existing shapes in order that the prestige of a certain class of people might be upheld. We do not want to say as to whether or not this idea is correct. But we do want to say this, that if anybody deems it his duty to uphold the prestige of the Civilian class we do not hold that sense of duty an improper one. The Civilians govern the country and their prestige should always be upheld. But if there are one or two black sheep in their ranks who bring disgrace on the whole body of Civilians, should not those black sheep be turned out of the flock? Should such black sheep be saved from the penalties of the law?

If you say that Civilians are recruited from men of ordinary class and not divine beings, you are also bound to admit that they are liable to make mistakes and do wrong. If any of them makes a mistake or does something wrong, would the attempt to hide that mistake or wrong-doing result in upholding the prestige of the Civilians as a class? Then again, what if the prestige of the State, of the English race, the interests of righteousness, are pitted against the prestige of this Civilian body? What should be done in such a case? Should all of them be set aside in order that the prestige of a certain class of men may be upheld.

Nobody will deny that Midnapore is part of the British dominions, and that wrong-doers there should be punished and honest citizens protected. What we now say is—is there any impartial judge who, reviewing the circumstances of the country, knowing what large powers are exercised by the police and the Magistrates in the mufassil and carefully pondering on the secrets revealed in the course of the evidence adduced in this case, can say in the sight of God, that the judgment of the Appeal Bench in this Midnapore case is the right one? We say that there is no judge or man who can say that.

We have another thing to say. Our Government ought to be like Cæsar's wife—"Not only chaste but above suspicion." Whether Warren Hastings was guilty or innocent, his impeachment, whether it originated in a desire for revenge on the part of certain people or in a desire to vindicate the right, we say his impeachment created a faith in the minds of the Indian people in the justice of the English nation. People thought that our rulers wanted justice, irrespective of the station of the offender. The judgment on appeal in the allied criminal cases at Midnapore, revealed the fact that Mr. Weston and the two police officers were guilty of wrong-doing. Even after seeing that, our rulers did not properly punish them. On the other hand, when the harassed subjects complained against them before the courts, wanting justice and claiming damages, public money was freely and generously spent for their defence. Does anybody suppose after this that the public faith in the justice of our

rulers will remain unshaken? Subjects as we are, what can we say? We shall only give expression to our inmost thoughts and feelings, and remain content to leave God to judge of the matter.

HITAVADI Aug. 23rd, 1912.

12. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August writes:—

The Midnapore case.

Mr. Justice Woodroffe in his judgment has extolled Mr. Weston and the police officers—indeed he has praised even the counsel on their behalf, beyond measure. On the other hand, this judgment is full of reproach for the plaintiff, his counsel and his witnesses. Even Mr. Justice Fletcher has come in for sharp criticism by Mr. Justice Woodroffe. Wherever the faults of the Magistrate or the police officers have been mentioned in the judgment, they have been referred to in the mildest terms, by terms like "error of judgment" "undue zeal" etc. On the other hand, however, the accusations of the plaintiff have been characterised as malicious. On the whole, the result has been triumph for the defendants in every sense. They have been awarded costs of the suit, they are not to pay any damages and have also been praised by the judge. What more could they expect?

We cannot say if this victory leaves the reputations of the appellants absolutely free from all stain, but our Anglo-Indian contemporaries are exultant beyond measure over this judgment. The *Pioneer* of Allahabad suggests that Mr. Justice Fletcher should resign his judgeship. The *Statesman* declares that this case has been encourrged by Mr. K. B. Dutt. These papers are beside themselves with joy at Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment, only because a Civilian was mixed up in this case. They have now found an opportunity of showering abuse on the heads of the Bengalis and of Mr. Justice Fletcher, and thus paying off old scores. The *Englishman* has not yet been able to forget the case against it which was brought by Lala Lajpat Rai, and it can therefore be expected to be incensed against Mr. Justice Fletcher in a special degree. We also know a reason why the *Statesman* should make a malicious attack on Mr. K. B. Dutt. For it was Mr. Dutt who put a question in the Bengal Council once, as to whether a strongly worded attack by the *Statesman* on the Viceroy in connection with the Delhi changes did not bring it within the purview of the sedition law. The *Statesman* has not yet forgotten that incident. But we cannot yet understand why the *Pioneer* should be so angry unless it be due to the mere fact that a European Civilian was required to pay damages.

Anyway, Mr. Justice Woodroffe has found that Peary Mohan Das was arrested because of the bomb which was found in his house, and the present suit was instituted because that arrest was described as malicious. Under these circumstances, since it was not proved beyond doubt that the police had placed the bomb there, the suit should have been dismissed at the outset. This is true, no doubt. But the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Mukerjee, when hearing the original bomb case, declared that though it had not been proved who placed the bomb in the room, the theory of the accused that the police had put it there could not be wholly dismissed. We remember that declaration now. And we also remember that Peary Mohan was not arrested promptly under the Explosives Act, as owner of the premises where a bomb had been found, but was arrested some days later in public court and thrown into *hajat*. Though an old man of 70, bail was not granted him and the Magistrate even saw him privately several times. Did not these incidents betray an unjust *zid* and cruelty on the part of Mr. Weston? Peary Mohan has been proved innocent by the courts. Those who made him undergo the sufferings of a life in *hajat* in his old age, go unpunished and yet Peary Mohan is held worthy of serious blame for having brought a law suit against them! Mr. Justice Woodroffe has said that Mr. Weston in this connection acted with some amount of rigour, but the public suspect there was something more than rigour in it.

The *Englishman* says that these officers should be compensated for the mental agony which they have suffered during the past few months. We do not object to this proposal. But we ask what they are to be compensated for. Peary Mohan's case has failed, because it has not been proved that in the present instance Mr. Weston and the police officers acted with malice. But a review of the entire history of the Midnapore incidents, and of the opinions repeatedly expressed by the High Court in this connection, does not suggest that these officers are in any way worthy of being rewarded.

Nobody is unaware of the kind of statements on which these police officers and Mr. Weston relied, when trying to unearth this Bomb conspiracy, how they, crediting impossible information supplied by men of no character, sought to effect the ruin of numerous respectable citizens. Stories which would be regarded as impossible even by boys with ordinary common sense, were accepted by these high Government officers as true and made the basis of a big law suit. There was no dearth of witnesses either. But the High Court found out the truth and acquitted all the accused one by one. Although their lordships made severe criticisms on the conduct of the police, two of these officers were held by Government deserving of promotion and titular distinctions. The Moslem spy employed by the Maulvi has been given a jaigir and money-reward, and Dr. Bankim Ghosh has been made a Rai Bahadur.

It is strange that while proposals are being made for these officers to be compensated, there is nothing being heard against those innocent men who, owing to the stupidity or inconsiderateness of these public servants, were forced to suffer intolerable mental and physical anguish for long periods by enforced residence in *hajat*. We agree with the *Statesman* in holding that this case will be an ever memorable one, but our reasons for holding this opinion differ. We think that never before did a Civilian, charged with the duty of protecting lakhs of men and women in his district, approved in this way of such a serious accusation being made against such a large number of men on sach impossible evidence. Nobody has yet forgotten how the police got up the Howah Gang case. So this Midnapore case did not come upon the public as a surprise. But we are amazed to think how Mr. Weston could support such a case. It would be most improper to honour and promote such unintelligent officers. Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment has not pleased the public.

BANGAVASI, Aug. 24th, 1912.

13. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th August says:—

The Midnapore case.

The Ango-Indian press has been howling at Mr. Justice Fletcher, demanding his resignation and seeking a reversal of the rules of appointment of Judges in the High Courts. Judgments have been reversed times without number before this case, but never before did the Anglo-Indian press cry so loudly for a vindication of justice. Is the special interest taken in the Midnapore case due to the fact that one of the defendants in it was a Civilian? But Mr. Justice Fletcher bore no grudge against Mr. Weston. His Lordship judged the case according to his lights. Not even the Anglo-Indian editors have been able to charge him with dishonesty. If, however a judge has to resign simply because his judgment has been reversed by an Appellate Court, thousands of judges in the world would have to resign every day. As for the Anglo-Indian editors, they should remember the case of the powerful editor, Taylor, in Sir Barnes Peacock's days, and beware of committing contempt of court.

The *Times* also has not lost the present golden opportunity to spite the Indians, by demanding a thorough and searching enquiry into the working of the High Court. It has charged this highest tribunal of justice in the land, with having made preposterous delay in the Mymensingh case with a sinister motive. The correspondent of the *Times*, writing under the pseudonym "Anglo-Indian" boldly says, "the submission of the proceedings (to the Privy Council) was deliberately delayed by the underlings of the High Court." This is a deliberate charge against the Judges of the High Court, under whose order the underlings of the court work. Should not the High Court take steps to punish the anonymous correspondent for this impudence on his part? This is an absolutely baseless charge, and it is simply out of spite that the *Times* and its correspondent have abused the High Court.

BASUMATI, Aug. 24th, 1912.

14. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th August has the following:—

*Ibid.*

The High Court has delivered its judgment in the Midnapore Damage suit. This suit, from beginning to end, is full of special features, and the judgment also of the Appellate Court is not devoid of speciality. The judgment which Mr. Justice Woodroffe has delivered, has been wholly agreed to by Mr. Justice Coxe. But Mr. Justice D. Chatterjee has delivered a separate judgment, which, though in agreement with that of his colleagues, was based on different arguments.

The three judges have thus been unanimous as regards the final order. There is, however, too much of heat and pungency in Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment, which is happily wanting in that of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chatterjee Mr. Justice Woodroffe and Mr. Justice Fletcher are both judges of the same court. Moreover, all Bengalis, nay all Indians, entertain the highest regard for and have implicit faith in Mr. Justice Fletcher. He has earned the reputation of being equal to Sir Barnes Peacock in devotion to justice. Assuming even for argument's sake that His Lordship was wrong in his findings, it must be said that it has been highly improper for Mr. Justice Woodroffe to have used unnecessarily harsh language in reviewing his judgment. Those who are of equal status and have to work together from one end of the year to another, and whose duty it is to uphold the glory and prestige of the same tribunal of justice, if such men take to criticising each other in unrestrained language, the tongue of the public creates all sorts of false rumours about the matter and thus the prestige of the court is impaired. It is not only our view but the view of many Anglo-Indians also, that the language and remarks of Mr. Justice Woodroffe have been unwarrantedly severe. Mr. Justice Woodroffe, who has been on the bench for a long time, cannot surely say that none of his fellow judges has ever differed from him. He ought, therefore, to consider how he would feel if one of them were to treat him as severely as he has treated Mr. Justice Fletcher. Surely, the arrows he has aimed at Mr. Justice Fletcher has not wounded that sharp-witted and justice-loving gentleman, for one who tries to discharge one's duty according to the best of one's knowledge and belief, is never touched by the edge of criticism. If, however, judges of the High Court take to abusing each other in this fashion, the people of the country will lose all their respect for the tribunal. Did this point ever strike Mr. Justice Woodroffe? We request the Chief Justice to consider the point.

Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment has thrown the Anglo-Indian community into an ecstasy of delight. The *Pioneer* has openly said, "The public may be excused perhaps for asking themselves the question whether Mr. Justice Fletcher can continue very much longer to hold his present position with advantage to either himself or the public service." We ask, who form the public to which the *Pioneer* refers? Is the *Pioneer's* public composed of the Anglo-Indian community only, which forms an infinitesimal minority among the vast population of Bengal, Behar, Orissa and Assam? Moreover, no one can dare say that all Anglo-Indians see eye to eye with the *Pioneer* in this matter. The *Indian Daily News*, for instance, which is an Anglo-Indian paper, has not echoed the *Pioneer's* view. We cannot, therefore, admit that all Anglo-Indians are clamouring for Mr. Justice Fletcher's deportation from India. Mr. Justice Fletcher's crime is that his judgment has been reversed on appeal. But what judge of the High Court has not had his judgment reversed some day or other? And why has not the Anglo-Indian Press ever before raised its inauspicious cry against any such judge?

Really, it is not the reversal of his judgment which has caused all this ferment against Mr. Justice Fletcher. The root of all the clamour lies in the fact that one of the defendants in the case was a Civilian. One Anglo-Indian newspaper has actually said, "if only the police officers had been involved, no one would have troubled himself very much as to the result." This shows that the real cause of the Anglo-Indian's displeasure is that Civilian Weston was involved in the case. But Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment has not affected the judgment which the Hon'ble the Chief justice and Mr. Justice Mukerjee delivered in the Bomb case against Santosh Das, when it came on appeal before their Lordships In that judgment their Lordships clearly said:— "It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the arrest was a move towards getting from Santosh a statement he had hitherto withheld." Mr. Weston also in cross-examination said, "Peary was arrested at my suggestion." And Santosh confessed after Peary Das's arrest. It is difficult to make all these facts yield one certain conclusion, and it is quite possible that two different judges will hold two different views in the matter. Hence it is that we see Sir Lawrence Jenkins, C.I.E., Mr. Justice Mukerjee and Mr. Justice Fletcher

holding one view, and Mr. Justice Woodroffe, Mr. Justice Coxe and Mr. Justice Chatterjee holding the contrary view. We have already said that in this article we shall express no opinion on the merits of the judgment. We, therefore, desist from saying here which of the above views is judicious and which not. Without, however, committing ourselves to any side we can say this much, that where both the sides are represented by high authorities the Anglo-Indian community ought not to have raised such a hue and cry over the matter. How can the public believe that at Midnapore, where the authorities mentioned the names of 154 persons as conspirators, then charged 27 persons with conspiracy and at last failed to prove the charge against any one of them, a large number of men from the Raja to the beggar was actually concerned in a huge conspiracy?

The Anglo-Indian editors who are proclaiming a *Jehad* against Mr. Justice Fletcher, ought to remember that the people of this country have unbounded faith in his Lordship, so that any agitation against him is sure to be met by a much wider agitation in his favour. This will only create a most undesirable commotion in the country. Considering this, the Anglo-Indians aught by all means to control and restrain their ardour in the matter.

CHARU MIHIR, Aug. 20th, 1912.

Midnapore judgment.

15. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 20th August writes that the result of the Midnapore appeal has thrown the Indian public into grief and despair, in the same degree as it has led to exultation on the part of the Anglo Indians. Save one or two, the Anglo-Indian newspapers are indulging freely in the use of uncivil language and malicious criticism. The *Pioneer* is the foremost of these: its impudence has gone to surprising lengths. It actually thinks that Mr. Justice Fletcher should resign. Even the just and popular Chief Justice has not been spared its attacks. On the modification of the Partition of Bengal, the *Statesman* indirectly hinted at Lord Hardinge's recall. The *Pioneer* now plays the same part in regard to Mr. Justice Fletcher. But the unshakable popular faith in his Lordship's love of justice will not at all be impaired by our contemporary's howls.

There is an idea abroad that the language of Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment is not consistent with courtesy. His references to Mr. Justice Fletcher and Mr. K. B. Dutt, have exceeded the bounds of restraint and courtesy. His words do not at all suggest that he is reviewing the work of a colleague, equal to him in rank and position. Two Judges may differ in regard to a case before them, but it is not proper that any heat should be displayed by one Judge in reviewing the opinions of the other.

More lamentable is the fact that an Indian Judge (Mr. Justice D. Chatterjee) should have concurred in such a judgment. Mr. K. B. Dutt is a most esteemed citizen, and the remarks in regard to him made by Mr. Justice Woodroffe and the *Statesman* are most rude. The allegation against him is that he has displayed an unnecessary amount of interest in the case. One can easily see whether this is properly a matter for reproach or for praise. The public confidence in Mr. K. B. Dutt will soon find public expression in an appreciation of his merits. It is the business of Anglo-Indians in a sense to abuse those Indians who serve the country. Before losing themselves in joy at this result of the appeal, did our contemporaries ever reflect what kind of impression this incident would produce on the minds of the Indian public? This spirit on the part of the Anglo-Indian papers is certainly not conducive to peace and the good government of the country. The ill-feeling between the rulers and the ruled, to remove which efforts were in progress, may again revive. The good effects of the Royal visit may thus, be to a large extent, neutralised.

Many people are surprised at Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment. There is no consecutive narration in the judgment of the original incidents, so it is not evident from a perusal of this judgment whether or not the plaintiff had really any ground for accusation. Remarks, reviews of the findings of the lower court, and analyses of the evidence of witnesses for the plaintiff, it is these which have gone to swell the bulk of the judgment. The main object of the judgment seems to be to prove the worthlessness of the plaintiff, his Counsel and his witnesses, and to make reflections against Mr. Justice Fletcher.

But it should be noted that these unrestrained remarks of Mr. Justice Woodroffe will do nothing to impair the heartfelt popular attachment and esteem for Mr. Justice Fletcher. His Lordship is well-known for his independence and impartiality. All Indians cherish for him a feeling of genuine reverence, because of the pure justice he metes out. In spite of the extraordinary length of Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment we cannot hold it free from mistakes. In spite of the numerous sharp remarks he has made, many people hold that it is the decision of Mr. Justice Fletcher which is the right one.

The undue lengths to which the *Pioneer*, the *Statesman* and other Anglo-Indian papers have gone in their remarks on this case, must have convinced Mr. Justice Woodroffe by this time what serious mischief he has created by his unrestrained remarks in this judgment. We cannot conceive that Mr. Justice Woodroffe can at all feel pleased at the shameless and discourteous language being used towards Mr. Justice Fletcher by the *Statesman* and the *Pioneer*, etc. But there is no doubt that he is responsible for it. And had he written his judgment in patient and restrained language, none would have dared to attack Mr. Justice Fletcher like this.

As regards the primary incidents, Mr. Justice Fletcher's decision tallies with that of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Mukerjee. So in this matter Mr. Woodroffe has differed from three of his colleagues. If Mr. Coxe agrees with him, Mr. D. Chatterjee has differed from him on many points. So there are serious doubts in the public mind as to the correctness of Mr. Woodroffe's judgment.

16. The *Khulna Vasi* [Khulna] of the 24th August accuses Mr. Justice Woodroffe of having taken an extremely partial view in the Midnapore case. He has disbelieved all the witnesses for the plaintiff, including even such men as the Raja of Narajole and Babu Upendra Nath Maiti, the leader of the Midnapore bar, disbelieved the plaitinff on the ground of his being a "dismissed Sub-Registrar" and passed severe strictures on Mr. K. B. Dutt, the noble and courageous counsel for the plaintiff; while, on the other hand, he has given high and unstinted praise to Mr. Weston, Khan Bahadur Mazhar-ul-Huq and Rai Bahadur Lal Mohan Guha, found vestiges of truth in even the perjured evidence of Rakhal Laha, and lauded the conduct of the counsel for the defence. His Lordship has, moreover, spared himself no pains to prove that Mr. Justice Fletcher is not fit for the bench. The judgment has given extreme satisfaction to the Anglo-Indian Press, which is even demanding Mr. Justice Fletcher's resignation. But it ought to know that Mr. Justice Fletcher's judgment accorded with Sir Lawrence Jenkins's and Sir Ashutosh Mukherji's view of the case, so that any remark passed against the former judgment applies equally against the latter. Are all the three judges then to resign? Why do the Anglo-Indians come forward with such gratuitous advice? They are birds of passage in this country and have no permanent stake here. Even-handed administration of justice in India is a thing in which the Indians are more interested than they. The views of the Indians, therefore, as to who are the best Judges in the country, are more weighty than theirs.

KHULNA VASI
Aug. 24th, 1912.

The Midnapore judgment.

17. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August says that Government ought to enquire how the *Pioneer* had published the salient points of Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment in the Midnapore case before it was actually delivered. Mr. Justice Woodroffe is an able and experienced Judge, and there can be no question about his honesty. As regards his judgment, however, there are much irrelevant and useless matter in it, and also unnecessarily severe reflections on individuals. A comparison between Mr. Justice Fletcher's judgment and Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment, shows that the real state of Midnapore has not been as well and intelligently depicted in the latter judgment as in the former one. Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment will have a bad effect on the public mind.

SRI-SRI-VISHNU-PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA,
Aug. 22nd, 1912.

*Ibid.*

18. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 25th August strongly criticises in English the "pointedly humiliating language and inquisitionally rigorous treatment

RANGPUR DIKPRAKASH,
Aug. 25th, 1912.

*Ibid.*

Justice Fletcher has been subjected to by his own colleague and fellow-Judge."

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, Aug. 25th, 1912.

19. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st August says that Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment is remarkable for the pungency of its tone in criticising Mr. Justice Fletcher's judgment and Mr. K. B. Dutt's conduct. Mr. Justice Fletcher might have made mistakes, but he worked with honesty according to his lights, and does not deserve to be consured in unmeasured language by a fellow-judge. In fact, the tone of Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment is unworthy of the high position and judicial acumen of its author.

The Midnapore judgment.

Mr. Justice Woodroffe has censured Mr. K. B. Dutt for unprofessional conduct in having accepted the plaintiff's brief and not having gone into the witness box. May be that Mr Dutt was wrong, but when the question is a disputed one, was Mr. Justice Woodroffe justified in using such strong language? There was nothing wrong in the zeal and ardour with which Mr. Dutt conducted the case for the plaintiff. Mr. Justice Fletcher assumed that Mr. Dutt's evidence would have been in favour of the plaintiff, but Mr. Justice Woodroffe has taken the contrary view. In common sense Mr. Justice Fletcher's view seems to be the correct one. However that may be, there is hardly any justification for all the abuse which Mr. Justice Woodroffe and the Anglo-Indian Press have showered on Mr. Dutt. No amount of abuse will, however, reduce the Indian's faith in and respect for him.

Towards the end of his judgment, Mr. Justice Woodroffe has said that old Peary Mohan had been subjected to unnecessarily hard treatment by being confined in jail, and that he ought to have been released on bail. Now, who was responsible for this rigorous treatment towards the old man of 70. Ought not Mr. Weston to have released him on bail? Mr. Justice Chatterji has, in his separate jadgment, plainly said that it was Peary Mohan's arrest which compelled Santosh and Surendra to make confessions. Under the circumstances, the old man cannot justly be blamed for having sought redress in the law court. The judgmeut of the Appellate court has not given satisfaction to the people of the country, and they are greatly astonished at the order that the plaintiff should bear the cost of both parties in the two courts.

MITHILA MIHIR, Aug. 24th, 1912.

20. Mr. Justice Woodroffe s judgment in the Midnapur Damage suit has caused an alarm throughout the whole country, says the *Mithila Mihir* [Darbhanga] of the 24th August. It is apprehended that the confidence of the people in the even-handed justice of the Calcutta High Court may be shaken. The High Court judgment in this case, and that of the Judicial Committee of England in the case Clarke *vs.* Chowdhry have given rise to the fear that in the event of a Government official causing unnecessary and unjust harassment to a subject, there is no one to check him and to come to the rescue of the oppressed.

*Ibid.*

The journal further critises the sharp comments of Justice Woodroffe as well as the Anglo-Indian journals on Justice Fletcher, on the lines of the *Daily Bharat Mitra* reported below.

DAILY BHARAT MITRA, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

21. We cannot refrain from saying, writes the *Daily Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August, that the way in which Justice Woodroffe has made attacks on Justice Fletcher in his judgement in the Midnapore case, is highly improper and should be condemned. In fact Justice Woodroffe's remarks would have been improper even if they were made on the judgment of a Sessions Judge. Moreover, it is the want of foresight on his part that has afforded an opportunity to Anglo-Indian journals like the *Pioneer*, *Englishman* and others for making unrestrained reflections on Justice Fletcher and the Chief Justice. Justice Woodroffe was quite at liberty to decide the case one way or the other but he had no right to make fun of his colleague, Mr. Fletcher.

*Ibid.*

With these preliminary remarks, the journal proceeds to give a history of the case from the commencement of the criminal proceedings in the year 1908.

DAILY BHARAT MITRA, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

22. In continuing its history of the Midnapore Damage suit from its yesterday's issue, the *Daily Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August writes:—

The Midnapore judgment.

The acquittal of Santosh Chandra Das, Surendra Nath Mukerjee and Jagjiwan Ghosh on 1st June 1909, which induced Santosh's father to institute

the damage suit gave universal satisfaction and people began to condemn the Police. But before the civil case was instituted the Maulvi and Inspector Lal Mohan Guha were decorated with titles. This action of the Government was strongly criticised by the Indian papers, but no heed was paid to it. After some time, however, Government deputed Mr. Macpherson to inquire into the mater, but his report has not seen, and perhaps will never see, the light of day. The presumption, therefore, is that the report is unfavourable to the officials of Midnapore.

Justice Fletcher, who gave a decree to Lajpat Rai against the *Englishman* and to Brojendra Kishore Roy against Mr. Clarke, Magistrate of Mymensingh, was selected by the Chief Justice to try the civil suit, no doubt on account of his being an impartial Judge.

When Justice Fletcher gave his decree in the present suit, Sir W. Duke was at the head of the Government of Bengal; it is said the appeal was preferred at his instance and that he turned heaven and earth to prove the innocence of his subordinates. The poor Indians were made to pay the cost of appeal. The accused were at first not even suspended, and subsequently when they were suspended they were allowed full pay for doing no work. Justice Woodroffe has given perhaps the lengthiest judgment in the world in this case.

The paper concludes the article with a question. Justice Woodroffe before delivering judgment, had said that Justice Coxe agreed with him *in toto* but Justice Chartterjee differed as to the payment of cost; but on the last day Justice Chatterjee also awarded the cost. What led to this change of opinion in the short interval of two days? Justice Chatterjee's judgment is a mere puzzle the meaning of some of the passages of which are hardly intelligible.

23. The attacks of the London *Times* on the High Conrt reveals its base nature to the *Daily Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th August. The opinions held by it are not conducive to the good of the British Empire. The *Time* is the eldest brother of papers like the *Pioneer*, the *Englishman* and the *Statesman* for they begin to howl in chorus with it whenever it raises the cry of "the wolf! the wolf!!" The fall of the *Statesman* is the most marked. It praised the Chief Justice when the latter had acquitted Santosh and others. It had not found fault with Justice Fletcher's judgment when it was delivered. It has relaxed its tone, however, since yesterday because Justice Woodroffe's judment is being torn into shreds by the Indian newspapers.

The fall of the *Statesman*.

DAILY BHARAT MITRA, Aug. 24th, 1912.

24. The *Tirhut Samachar* hopes that the Government of Bihar and Orissa will follow the commendable example of the Burma Government which has recently made provision for the defence at Government cost of such accused in criminal cases and particularly in those of murder as went so far undefended owing to their inability to pay the fees of a lawyer.

Government providing legal assistance to convicts.

TIRHUT SAMACHAR Aug. 22nd, 1912.

25. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th August wonders why the *Advocate* of the North-West Frontier Province, a Hindu organ, should have been called upon to furnish security twice, while the violent paper *Afghan* has not been required to furnish it even once.

A violent journal.

HINDI BANGAVASI, Aug. 26th, 1912.

26. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 19th August writes that on the 15th July last there was a dacoity at Pratappur in the course of which Rs. 7,000 was carried off but in the month of August, there was a dacoity committed to the extent of Rs. 4,000 in the course of a single day in the Barisal courts. That is a matter which should be inquired into. If, in the one case, the householder was helpless, in the other case the seeker for favour was equally helpless. We can supply information regarding these dacoits if asked. Or the Sessions Judge may get all the necessary information if he secretly asks the people inside the four walls of his court-house. This is a bare statement of fact and we earnestly ask the higher officials to enquire into this matter.

Corruption in the courts.

BARISAL HITAISHI, Aug. 19th, 1912.

Continuing, the paper points out that the Salaries Commission recommended that promotion from grade to grade up to the grade of Rs 50 should ordinarily go by seniority *i.e.* that ordinary good and honest work should

ensure promotion and that no one should be passed over except on account of his own demerits and asks if it is not a fact that even in these grades some people have been promoted over the heads of half a dozen seniors. If so, why ? The Sessions Judge should look into the matter.

TIRHUT SAMACHAR, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

27. The *Tirhut Samachar* [Muzaffarpur] of the 22nd August urges that Nagari script should be introduced in the courts and offices of Bihar in the place of Kaithi which is only a distorted form of the former, since the people in general are not well acquainted with and find some difficulty in reading the latter, which is not free from all the defects of the character in which Urdu is written.

Nagri and Kaithi.

The paper also complaims that there are certain Sub-Registers who do not admit documents written in Hindi for reasons known but to themselves. It is hoped that the higher authorities will remove the cause for such complaints and will encourage the use of the correct form of Hindi.

### (*c*)—*Jails.*

MANBHUM, Aug. 13th, 1912.

28. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 13th August says that an undertrial prisoner in the Purulia Jail died on the public road while being conducted from the Court to the prison. It is alleged that the prisoner had been taken to the court in spite of his having been ill in *kajat* for about eight or ten days.

Alleged fatal effect of taking an under-trial prisoner in ill-health to Court.

BANGAVASI, Aug. 24th, 1912.

29. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th August draws the attention of the Government to this incident.

*Ibid.*

### (*d*)—*Education.*

MUHAMMADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

30. Referring to Sir Harcourt Butler's recent letter to the Raja of Mahmudabad, announcing the Secretary of State's "final decision" about the scope of the proposed Moslem Uuiversity and some other matters relating to it, the *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says :—

Sir Harcourt Butler's letter.

The Government of India and the Secretary of State are putting great pressure on the Musalman community for abandoning the real purpose for which Sir Syed Mahmud started the agitation for establishing a separate University for Musalmans and for the fulfilment of which the Musalmans have collected thirty-five lakhs of rupees. The general idea of the community is that an acceptance of a charter on the terms of the Government will do it immense harm. The Constitution Committee of the proposed University has circulated Sir Harcourt's letter with its own views, among all the members of the General Committee, and the decision of the General Committee will be final on the subject. We, therefore, consider it our duty to publish the views of the public on the contents of the letter.

The idea that while the Viceroy will not accept the Chancellership of the University, all the powers of a Chancellor will be wielded by the Governor-General in Council, is indeed strange. The Univerity will first be deprived of the advantage of having the Viceroy as its Chanceller, and next be subjected to the great disadvantage of being ruled by the Governor-General in Council, which will practically mean by Sir Harcourt Butler and Mr. Morrison. Every one who has known these gentlemen feels how the University will fare under their control. Again, if the real authority is exercised by the Governor-General in Council what will the official Chancellor be but an oramental figure-head? If the Vicery does not accept the Chancellorship, he ought not to exercise any authority over the university. All powers should be wielded by the Chancellor, whoever who may be. If the arrangement proposed by the

Government is accepted, the non-official and "independent" donominational Universities will be more under the thumb of officialdom than the official Universities themselves. Will the Musalman community be willing to purchase this load of unbearable servitude in exchange for money paid out of its own pocket?

Why is the Government reluctant to style the denominational Universities Hindu or Moslem University? Some people have been saying that the Constitutional Committee ought not to fight over a name. We, however, cannot praise the intelligence of those who say this. We are eager for a national name because there is an intimate relation between name and nationality. In fact, the reason for which Government has been urging the omission of the title "Moslem" is also the reason for which the Musalman community wants to retain it. The Education Member has pleaded that the Government was not aware of the Musalman community's purpose to affiliate to their University colleges outside the town in which it would be situated. But did not Sir Harcourt ever hear that the Musalmans wanted to give their University the name of Moslem University?

At the end of his letter, Sir Harcourt says that the Secretary of State has kept his opinions reserved about many things relating to the University not discussed in the letter. This is truly alarming, and seems like killing the scheme by inches, for in future the authorities may raise any number of vital objections to it. Government ought at once to have expressed its opinions about all the proposals of the Constitution Committee, and we are at a loss to make out why it has not done so. One noteworthy point is that, in the letter in question, Government has objected to the affiliation of colleges only, lying outside the local limits of the University, but has said nothing about outside schools. Let the Government unfold its whole mind at one time so that the Musalman community may clearly see its position and express its views.

The Hon'ble Nawab Vikar-ul-mulk advised that the Musalman community should accept what the Government was giving them now, and then go on agitating for more. But this advice fails in the face of the announcement that the Musalman community must accept the Government's present decision as its "final decision," permanent and immutable.

The University which Government intends to grant to the Musalman community will be nothing but the existing Aligarh college, somewhat improved. Such a college, euphemistically called a University, will never do much more good to the community than what is being done by the Aligarh college, as it is now. It will not, therefore, be reasonable to buy a golden chain of bondage for the Aligarh college at a cost of 35 lakhs of rupees. There are thousands of pressing wants of the community, to the supply of some of which this money should be devoted. If however the leaders of the community, in whose hands the money is lying, cannot do anything of the kind, they ought to return the money to the Provincial Committees to be dealt with by them in the best way they can.

31. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says:— MUHAMMADI Aug. 23rd, 1913.

Sir Harcourt Butler's letter.

In a meeting of the Constitution Committee of the Moslem University recently held at Lucknow to consider Sir Harcourt Butler's letter, it was unanimously and firmly decided by delegates from all provinces, that the University should not be established on any line other than what the Musalman community has desired. We have done enough of flattery, and shall not ruin ourselves by continuing in the same path. The meeting expressed the opinion that the Secretary of State's unrelenting order has inaugurated an era of national awakening in the Musalman community. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Safi, the delegate from the Punjab, said that if the Constitution Committee accepted a charter on the lines proposed by the Government, disregarding the unanimous opinion of the Musalman community, the contributors to the Fund would take their money back even with the help of law courts, if necessary. Nawab Fakruddin of Patna demanded a return of Behar's contribution to the fund so that a Musalman College might be established at the headquarters of Behar. In short, all our representatives in the meeting unanimously echoed the lamentation of the community. The Hon'ble Agha Khan has wired his regret at the Government's decision, and

Nawab Vikar-ul-mulk also has said that it would be useless to establish a University which would not have the power of affiliation.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

32. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that, having regard to the conditions which Government has imposed on the Moslem University, it seems that it would be better to give up the idea of establishing the University, and to construct high class Musalman colleges in the important centres of Musalman learning in India, with the funds raised for the University. Arrangements for technical, agricultural and engineering education may also be made at the same time.

Sir Harcourt Butler's letter.

AL-HILAL, Aug. 18th, 1912.

33. The *Al-Hilal* [Calcutta] of the 18th August observes that througout the whole correspondence there is nothing that may, even metaphorically, be called a justification or a sound argument; and if any be claimed as such, the paper would be surprised that a high official of the Education Department should have used it, and thereby transgressed all the rules of Logic known since the time of Aristotle.

*Ibid.*

The Hon'ble Sir Harcourt Butler writes to say that it was ever the wish of the late Sir Syed to raise the Aligarh College to the status of a residential University, and this has been the aim of the influential Muhammadans and the members of the College. The fact has been stated in the preamble of its constitution.

The paper is thankful that a responsible officer of the Department should have all along been studying our aims and objects so thoroughly. No doubt Sir Syed had a mind to liberate the Muhammadans from the fetters of the unmeaning and inhuman education that is in vogue in the country, and to save his community from the control of mere examining Universities, which the Government has established to keep away 30 crores of its people from the benefits of a real education. But if Mr. Butler thinks that Sir Syed wanted no affiliation of other institutions to the Aligarh University he should, after the Simla season, take the trouble of visiting Aligarh, and of reading and trying to understand the Tahzibul-Akhlaq, and the reports of the Muhammadan Educatlon Committee kept in the Lytton Library, and then see if he can still bring the above charge against the Committee. The scheme prepared by Mr. Mahmud clearly shows that, though the Aligarh Institution was called a Madrasah, it was really intended to be a University and not a college, and, if it was to be of the residential type, its activities were not to be confined to a single locality.

AL-MUDABBIR, Aug. 19th, 1912.

34. Dealing with the Moslem University Constitution the *Al-Mudabbir* [Bankipur] of the 19th August has the following:—

*Ibid.*

It seems that neither the Government of India nor the Secretary of State has recognized that there is such a thing as a Committee of the Moslem University, and it is entitled to proper regard from them. Two reasons may be assigned for this—(1) Lord Hardinge, having been a diplomatist for the most part of his life, is not open to advice or counsel even in matters relaling to the welfare of the Indians, (2) the Moslem University Committee is itself responsible for the indifference to it of the Government, which knows perfectly well if the Committee deserves the crown it has put on its head as representing 7 crores of Muhammadans of India. Bihar could nominate only one individual, viz. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Hasan Imam, for the Committee, and he too is unable to attend its meetings because of his appointment in the Calcutta High Court. His name may, however, be retained in the list of members as the Constitution Committee is not a political body. If it were desirable to get constant opinion from Bihar, some more men should have been nominated along with the Hon'ble Justice Imam. The Government also knows how far the few members on the list of the Committee take interest in their duties in connection with the University. It often occurs that not even half the number attends the Committee. The paper therefore requests those whose wisdom, prudence, and devotion are necessary for the prosperity of the University, to reform the Constitution Committee in order that it may carry some weight in the eyes of the Government.

JASOHAR, Aug. 24th, 1912.

35. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 24th August refers in detail to the point set out in Sir H. Butler's recent letter to the Aligarh committee. and then proceeds sarcastically

*Ibid.*

to hint that Lord Crewe is determined to wreck this scheme by hook or by crook. It reminds the Indian leaders, who promoted these University schemes, of their state of subjection, and asks them to desist from the lofty projects which it is beyond their capacity to carry through unaided.

Daily Bharat Mitra, Aug. 24th, 1913.

Sir Harcourt Butler's letter.

36. Government have had experience, says the *Daily Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th August, of the Bengali-Hindu agitation and now they want to see what Mussalman agitation is like. Every one has a right to give a name to one's own offspring; but no, Government would not allow it; the Hindus and Musalmans who have found all the money required for their Universities are not to designate them according to their wishes. We praise the Musalmans, continues the paper, for the way in which they have replied to the Government communication and we hope the Hindu University Committee would enter an equally strong protest. It appears from Musalman papers that the Moslem community is highly agitated. The *Comrade* of Calcutta says that Government is aware that the University Committee can obey but one mandate, and that mandate must be from the Musalman community. The *Empire* has come to learn that this is not to be an idle threat (lit.—monkey grimace). There is going to be held a meeting of the University Committee soon to come to a final decision, and that will be to decline to accept the Government decision. A deputation will be sent to England and at the same time protest meetings will be held all over the country. It is said that the Musalmans have refrained from protesting so long, because of their being repeatedly asked to do so. When the question is once decided upon there would be waves of protests. It appears from the signs of the time that Musalmans will be ultimately successful and make Lord Crewe eat the humble pie (lit., make him sit and rise with his ears pulled by himself). Government perhaps knows that the Musalman agitation will be more serious than the agitation of the Bengalis.

Basumati, Aug. 24th, 1913.

Primary Education in India.

37. Referring to the necessity of the spread of education among cultivators for the improvement of agriculture in the country on Western lines, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th August says:—

The Under-Secretary of State for India has given hope of establishing primary schools in all villages. But it will not do to establish schools only. The prevailing system of primary education requires to be overhauled with a view to doing all-round good. The books which are now-a-days taught in primary schools deal with such objects and are written in such difficult language, that their study often helps to dull instead of sharpening the intelligence of little boys. They no doubt contain lessons on Agriculture, Botany and so forth, but such lessons, being merely translations from English by authors who have no acquaintence with the subjects, are extremely dry and unilluminative. To teach reading, writing and arithemetic should be the main object of primary education. All such difficult subjects, as History, Geography, Grammar and so forth should be omitted. Books like *Kathamala*, *Sisusiksha* Part III, and *Bodhodaya* should be taught instead of books written by hired authors for Messrs. Macmillan & Co. India being pre-eminently an agricultural country, easy lessons on agriculture should be taught in primary schools, and books containing such lessons should be written by agricultural experts like Professor Giris Chandra Basu, Mr. Dwijendralal Roy and Mr. Atul Krishna Ray. Many people are in favour of teaching small science readers in primary schools. But they are greatly mistaken, for there is a total want of teachers capable of teaching them. In the present condition of teachers in the mufassal there is no chance for the success of the Kindargarten system. Again, considering the extremely insanitary condition of the country, easy lessons on health and disease also should be taught in primary schools. But care should be taken to see that they are written by efficient men who, without being pedantic, can deal elaborately and yet in a simple style with the cause, prevention, spread and so forth of diseases like malaria, cholera and plague. All books intended for primary schools should be made as easy as possible, and the easier they become the better will they serve the purpose of primary education in the country.

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

38. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August asks if a young Moslem lad, just out of college, can be a proper holder of an office once filled by Dr. P. K Ray. Was there no suitable member of the education service available for the post, which should be filled only by a veteran educationist?

The new Assistant to Mr. Arnold.

BASUMATI, Aug. 24th, 1912.

39. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th August takes exception to the appointment of an unknown man like Mr. Amin-ul-Rahman as Mr Arnold's Assistant, which post was held by Dr. P. K. Ray. The incumbent of the post, however, concludes the writer, has not much work to do, and such duties as he has to perform are not of an arduous nature.

*Ibid.*

BIRBHUMVASI, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

40. The *Birbhumvasi* [Rampurhat] of the 22nd August publishes an appeal to the Government, and to the leaders of public opinion in the country, to take some steps to ameliorate the lot of the schoolmaster, specially those employed in private schools. The schoolmaster discharges a most responsible function in regard to the youthful population of the country, and as the old ideals of ascetic life for the preceptor are now dead, it is in the best interest of the country at large that something effective should he done to place him in a position of comfort, which may enable him to do his teaching work satisfactorily, by freeing him from all care and anxiety due to pecuniary difficulties. Government has done much recently to improve the school buildings and school appliances. Will it now do something to improve the financial position of the schoolmaster, who after all is more necessary to the success of the school than school furniture or the school building?

An accursed community.

AL-HILAL, Aug. 16th, 1912.

41. Referring to the speech of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay at the Poona Urdu Conference, the *Al-Hilal* [Calcutta] of the 16th August thanks His Excellency for his kind advice, but regrets that although it is valuable it would not fetch a high price now. His Excellency should know, says the paper, that the Muhammadans have been acting on the advice for the last 50 years, and have always had full trust on Government, in order to prove which they have made many sacrifices. It was on account of this very trust that they never cared to put any trust in their 22 crores of neighbours, nay, they did not show any self reliance. For the sake of one they incurred the displeasure of the whole world. They sacrificed their dearest things in acting up to this advice. They have bowed down their heads at the portal of the Government, and submitted to her unkind glance as before the arch of a sacred shrine, but alas all in vain, as appears from what the Government said not long ago and which does not require any repetition. His Excellency's advice no doubt may not be devoid of love and sympathy for the Muhammadans, but he cannot possibly realize the feelings of these unfortunate beings, as one reposing on the bed of sovereignty can hardly appreciate the feelings of those rolling on the ground of subjection.

The Urdu Conference at Poona.

MOSLEM HITAISHI. Aug. 23rd, 1912.

42. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that Musalman students in Bengal labour under the most serious disadvantage of having to learn five languages, namely, Urdu, Persian, Arabic, Bengali and English, with the result that they do not acquire a sound knowledge of any of them. Hindu students, however, study only Bengali, which is their mother-tongue, as their second language. This gives them a great advantage over Musalman students. But Bengali is the mother-tongue of Bengali Musalmans also. In the interest, therefore, of their education and welfare it is by all means necessary to follow Sir George Clarke's advice to Musalmans that "it would be most unwise in your best interest to press the Urdu language on children who habitually speak a vernacular, and who will require that vernacular throughout the course of their working hours," and that "two Eastern languages, with English superadded, would be too much for young boys and would tend to handicap them in the later stages of their education."

The language question for Bengali-Musalman students.

MUHAMMADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

43. A correspondent of the *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says hat the new system of education, with its multiplicity of text-books and stringent rules in various directions, has acted as a check on the

The difficulties of Musalman students.

spread of education among poor Musalmans. Moreover, the closing of free schools and colleges, and enhancement of fees in other institutions, are preventing many a Musalman student from pursuing his studies. Even from the academical point of view the present system does not seem to be a wholesome one, for it over-taxes the brains of tender youths with loads of text-books. The disadvantage to which a Musalman student is put in this respect, is much greater than that to which a Hindu student is put; for, while the latter has to take only Sanskrit as his second language, the former has to bear a heavy load of three languages, viz., Arabic, Persian and Urdu. What can be a greater oppression and zulum on Musalman students? How can it be possible for them, crushed as they are under such a load of second languages, to compete successfully with Hindu students?

Wanted, a Musalman boarding house at Krishnagar.

44. Writing in the *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August, the Secretary of the Durbar Club at Krishnagar laments the want of a boarding house or hostel for Musalman students in the town, and prays the authorities to supply it in the interest of the education of poor Musalman students. Some time ago the Director of Public Instruction promised to consider the matter, but nothing further has as yet been done.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

Obscene text-books in the Calcutta Madrasah.

45. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that the article published in a previous issue of the paper (see Report on Native Papers, dated the 17th August 1912, paragraph 42) about the immoral character of two text-booksfor the 7th class of the Arabic section of the Calcutta Madrasah, has succeeded indrawing the attention of the Musalman community. The *Mussalman* newspaper has expressed itself in strong terms against the use of such booksin any educational institution. It is hoped that the two books will be at once removed from the curriculum of the Madrasah.

MUHAMMADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

The Engineering College at Dacca.

46. The *Viswa-varta* [Dacca] of the 9th August is glad to have the assurance of Mr. Lyon, given at a recent meeting at the Sibpur College, that Bengal is to continue to have an Engineering College of its own, and that its future location will be at Dacca.

VISWA-VARTA Aug. 9th, 1912.

The Medical College incident.

47. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of tbe 26th August asks what has come of the inquiry into the Medical College incident reported in paragraph 32 of the Report on the Native papers for the 17th August 1912. Is it true that the inquiry has not been proceeded with at all? The matter cannot be hushed up.

NAYAK, Aug. 26th, 1912.

### (e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

The *Statesman* and Bengal Zamindars.

48. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Kakina] of the 18th August quotes the following from a recent issue of the *Statesman*:—

"To a large extent this scarcity (of water) is due to the manner in which absentee zamindars have neglected their duties towards their tenants, and it is a pity that the Government have no simple means of bringing pressure to bear upon those persons who fail to recognize the responsibilities of their position."—and then remarks as follows:—

RANGPUR DIKPRAKASH, Aug. 18th, 1912.

Can it be possible that our contemporary is ignorant of the fact that the Bengal landholders, at the time of the imposition of Road cess, were entirely absolved of their obligations to the raiyats in respect of providing water, village roads, etc.? It was the Government who undertook to see to the provision of these things, and for that express purpose the cess was levied and added to the permanently-settled revenue; and if the State has not found it possible (owing to other pressing public demands) to fulfil these obligations, it is anything but just and fair to hold the landholders answerable for it. Does our contemporary know that many of the zamindars pay Govarnment annually about one-third of their revenues for these purposes, and yet they see no return for it in their estates for the benefit of their tenants? But notwithstanding the heavy annual payments and various other large demands on their incomes, many of the zamindars still most generously and ungrudgingly

dig tanks, sink wells and undertake such other works of public utility to meet the urgent needs of their raiyats.

SANJIVANI, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

49. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August writes:—

The Serajganj Municipality.

The municipal rate-payers of Serajganj have recently elected eight Hindus and four Musalman Commissioners. As two-thirds of the municipal income is contributed by Hindu rate-payers, this proportion of Commissioners is only a fair one. Hindu voters in this municipality number 3,590 against 2,604 Moslem voters. So there should be more Hindu Commissioners. But Government is going to nominate five Moslems and one Hindu to the Board, so as to equalize the numbers of the Hindu and the Musalman Commissioners. This will be most unfair. It is reprehensible to select Commissioners according to their religious belief. No real friend of Hindus or Moslems will tell them that the interests of these two communities are different. Let the best men be Commissioners, whatever their religious persuasion.

MUHAMMADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

50. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that, both as regards election and nomination, Musalmans are unjustly kept out of Municipal Boards. It is no special favour or act of charity which the Musalmans seek from the Government. They want that they should not be unjustly kept out of their right. The following are examples of how the Mussalman community is unjustly treated in municipalities:—

Musalmans and Municipal Boards.

### BARANAGAR MUNICIPALITY.

One-fourth of the ratepayers are Musalmans. But of the nine elected Commissioners only one is a Musalman, and at most one out of the four nominated Commissioners will be a Musalman.

### SERAJGUNGE MUNICIPALITY.

Four Musalmans have succeeded in getting themselves returned among twelve elected Commissioners. For the six seats for nominated Commissioners, the former District Magistrate recommended four Hindus and two Musalmans. The Government having been against this recommendation, the new Magistrate has, according to instructions from above, recommended five Musalmans and one Hindu. At this the Hindu press is seeing the spectre of ill-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans at Serajgunge. The *Sanjivani* has been urging the necessity of appointing Hindu Commissioners only, on the ground that they are generally much more educated than Musalman Commissioners. But it should know that, considering the general tendency of Hindu Commissioners to injure the interest of Musalmans, it is absolutely necessary that there should be Musalman Commissioners on Municipal Boards, even if they be perfectly illiterate.

### BURDWAN MUNICIPALITY.

Maulvi Abul Kasim was a candidate for Commissionership but the Chairman, Babu Devendra Nath Sarkar, passed him over in the election without showing any reason. The matter is now *sub judice* in the local Civil Court. When an influential man like Maulvi Abul Kasim falls into such trouble, the condition of humbler Musalman candidates for Commissionerships is easily surmisable.

### CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

The *Statesman* has truly said that it is impossible for non-Hindus to win a contest for Commissionership in the Calcutta Municipality. In the last election only one Musalman was returned, and that because his candidature was uncontested. Hindu Zamindars secure the votes of their Musalman tenants for Hindu candidates, by threatening them with notices of quitting if they dare give their votes to other persons. And Hindu voters are openly incited against Musalman candidates. There is absolutely no exaggeration in all that the *Statesman* has said on the subject.

51. The *Narad* [Chapra] of the 19th August draws the attention of the Police Superintendent to the serious nuisance caused every morning to the inmates of the Police Hospital and the neighbouring residents, as well as passers by on the road, when the night-soil of the Police Line is removed from the latrines in exposed pots to the conservancy cart standing on the road, and sending forth strongly offensive odour. The paper suggests that, for so long as some better arrangement is not made to remove the cause of this complaint, walls may be erected round the latrines and the cart loaded within them.

A sanitary complaint.

NARAD, Aug. 19th, 1912.

### (*f*)—*Questions affecting the land.*

52. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 19th August regrets that, while management of estates by the Court of Wards generally results in freeing those estates from debt and increasing their incomes, some estates now under the management of the Court in Bakerganj are apparently so mismanaged that their debts are increasing instead of diminishing. It is also said that in the estates of the Nawab of Dacca, situated in the Bakerganj district and under the management of the Court of Wards, practices are still permitted to continue in the matter of illegal exactions from the tenants which are more characteristic of zamindari management than of Court of Wards management.

Estates under the Court of Wards in Bakerganj.

BARISAL HITAISHI, Aug. 19th, 1912.

### (*g*)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

53. A correspondent of the *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that the silting up of the khal at Hatuganj in the 24-Parganas district, has stopped the drainage of Berhaudari, Jabberhem, Deria, Bakchar, Jainan, Rajarampore, Raghunathpore, Bagashe, Chandipore, Kunde, Banmashid, Helegachi, Hatuganj, Kanpore, Dharapur, and other villages, so that during the rains these places are flooded with water. The Government is requested to dredge the Hatuganj khal, or construct a new khal in the locality.

A khal in the 24-Parganas district.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

### (*h*)—*General.*

54. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that the rapid demolition of bustees in Calcutta during the last year has greatly reduced the Musalman population of the city and enormously increased that of the suburbs, such as Maniktala, Beliaghata, Entally, Beniapukur and Ballyganj. Neverthless the city and the suburbs continue to have as many Musalman Marriage Registrars respectively as they had before, and the result is that while the Marriage Registrars of Calcutta are dying for want of work, those of the suburbs have got their hands more than full. The attention of the Inspector-General of Registration is drawn to the matter, and he is requsted to alter the present arrangement with a view to equalising the amount of work done by the Marriage Registrars of the city and of the suburbs.

Musalman Marriage Registrars in Calcutta and its suburbs.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

55. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August referring to the Public Service Commission writes:—

Indians and the public service.

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

Indians have long been agitating for appointment to the higher public offices in larger numbers than now. Lord Curzon, some time ago, prepared a list to show for his own purpose how Indians occupied quite a large share of the public posts. Of course, this list included all kinds of Indian public servants, down to the sweeper, the chaprassi, the peon, the duftry, the clerk, and so on. Lord Curzon, on the strength of this document, unblushingly declared that Indians had no right to complain of exclusion from public employment. Considering that his Lordship explained away the Queen's Proclamation; it was only natural that he should seek thus

to silence the demands of Indians. But regarding this question of employment of Indians in high offices, high officials differ among themselves so much that it will not be easy for us to get our desires fulfilled. Even a sympathetic official like Lord Macdonnell could not support the appointment of an Indian to the Executive Council. The constitution of the new Islington Commission is being criticised by various people as unsatisfactory, both to Indians and to Anglo-Indians. For ourselves we are neither pleased nor displeased with its constitution. After Lord Crewe's recent statement about Self-Government for India, how can we say that he does not share Lord Curzon's views about the perpetual reservation of the highest offices for Englishmen? It is true that he has publicly stated that he favours the appointment of Indians to public offices to a larger extent than now. But what good will be done to the country if there are a few more Indian Deputies or Sub-Deputies or clerks? That is why we look upon the Public Service Commission with indifference.

In Musalman days, Hindus rose to be Governors of Provinces. But Lord Crewe the other day mocked the idea of an Indian Prime Minister or Commander-in-Chief. We are told that some offices require special qualifications for their holders, but what these qualifications are remains hidden in the minds of the authorities. You are reminded of this special qualification whenever you ask why an Indian is not given a particular post, but none knows what it is, or whether any Indian has got it. Anyway, leaving aside Governorship and the like, we are told that Government has no objection to appointing us in larger numbers to comparatively lesser offices. Will it then consent to a system of simultaneous Civil Service Examination?

When Mr. Subba Rao proposed such a Commission on the Public Services, the Government of India opposed it. And yet Lord Crewe now supports the idea. What can be the reason? Whatever it is, we hope it will not end merely in a waste of time and public money.

AL-HIAL, Aug. 18th, 1912.

Indians and the public service.

56. A correspondent of *Al-Hilal* [Calcutta] in its issue of the 18th August, hopes that the Commission would not only consult the wishes of the Indians but also examine the special claims of the Muhammadans for employment in the Public Services. He calls upon such of his countrymen as may be so inclined, to furnish the said Commission with their views on the subject in writing. The question of the employment of Muhammadans, says the writer, requires great deliberation, and the newspapers would be the best counsellors of those that will give evidence before the Commission. They should, therefore, every now and then raise issues bearing on the subject for the consideration of the Commission. Those among the readers that do not like to publish their views in papers, are requested to communicate privately with the writer or somebody else.

BARISAL HITAISHI, Aug 19th, 1912.

*Ibid.*

57. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 19th August writes that it is passing strange indeed, that there should be on this Commission no Bengali—one of the race which occupies the position of *guru* (teacher) towards many other Indian communities, in matters political. Is the modification of the Partition held to be a reward which should satisfy all the longings and political aspirations of the Bengali?

TIRHUT SAMACHAR, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

The Dumraon scandal.

58. The *Tirhut Samachar* [Muzaffarpur] of the 22nd August draws the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa to the scandalous report published in the *Capital* that a lakh of rupees was given from the Dumraon treasury to a Government official in order to avoid any hitch in the adoption of an heir by the late Maharani, and that the name of the officer who received the money was made known, though not openly, to the Court which heard the Dumraon Raj Case. If the report be true, an enquiry is necessary.

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

Payments to Civil servants in Bengal.

59. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August points out that in Bengal there are 174 Civilians serving, of whom only 12 are Indians. These European Civilians get, as salaries, per month Rs. 2,68,485 and the dozen Indian members of the service get Rs. 20,783-5-4. Taking into consideration the salaries of the Statutory Civilians and of the members of the Provincial services holding offices ordinarily reserved for the Indian Civil Service, it will be apparent that the Indians get a tenth of the amount paid

in salaries to European Civilians. The paper gives these facts and leaves its readers to add the comments.

English Inspectors of Mines for India.

60. Some time ago, writes the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th August, Mr. Montagu said in Parliament that, as most of the mine owners in India were Englishmen, it was necessary and proper to appoint Englishmen as Inspectors of Mines there. It is a wonder that his explanation silenced the House. The duty of Inspectors of Mines is to look after the welfare of miners and enforce the rules relating to it; and miners in India are not Englishmen but Indians. The worth of Mr. Montagu's lame and blind argument may, therefore, be readily conceived. Indians are not such fools as to be deceived by it.

BASUMATI, Aug. 24th, 1912.

The partition of Mymensingh—a support.

61. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 12th August publishes a correspondence in which the writer, Babu Guruganga Aich Chaudhuri of Chariparha, under the Uthali Post Office, supports the scheme of partitioning the district of Mymensingh and says that the opposition to it is wholly an interested one.

DACCA PRAKASH, Aug. 12th, 1912.

Manbhum should be included in Bengal.

62. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 20th August publishes a long correspondence in the course of which the necessity of including the Manbhum District in Bengal is strongly urged, on the ground that it is entirely a Bengali-speaking district and has nothing in common with Bihar and Biharis.

MANBHUM, Aug. 20th, 1912.

*Ibid.*

63. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August also publishes the above letter.

SANJIVANI, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

Bengalis in Bihar.

64. The *Shiksha* [Arrah] of the 22nd August says that the Biharis are dissatisfied with the arrangement that the Bengalis that have settled in Bihar will have just the same privilege of entering the Council and the services of the province as the Biharis, for many Bengalis go to Bihar for a change to recoup their health and a number of them have built houses there to spend their old age, after retirement from service, at a healthy place; all of them will claim themselves as Biharis when trying to obtain posts for younger members of their families.

SHIKSHA, Aug. 22nd, 1912.

New Delhi.

65. In an article on the pressing needs of India for improving sanitation and education in the country, the *Al-Mudabbir* [Bankipur] of the 19th August urges that the savings from the income of the country should be spent on schemes of sanitation and education and that no surplus money, as it is called, should be spent in building the New Delhi as resolved upon by the Under-Secretary of State and the Government of India, for the crying needs under the above two heads, if attended to, can hardly leave any surplus. The Indians are not so foolish, says the paper, as not to understand Mr. Montagu when he says that, in order to find a surplus for building Delhi, there would be no disturbance in the management of the country, or no imposition of any new tax on the Indians nor any remission of a tax will be refused. In order to meet the heavy expenditure on account of building the new Capital which would cost 7 to 8 crores according to estimates of the Government, but not less than 15 crores as estimated by Lord Curzon, which appears to be nearer the truth, the Government should take a loan and devote the surplus money to the improvement and reforms of the country which, if for some time withheld for want of money, would tell badly on the well-being of India.

AL-MUDABBIR, Aug. 19th, 1912.

Wanted, grain compensation allowances.

66. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 19th August says that grain compensation allowances were granted to all Government employees in Eastern Bengal drawing less than Rs. 30 per month till the 31st of March last, since when they have been discontinued. But the price of rice is still rising. Will not the old concession then be again granted by Lord Carmichael?

BARISAL HITAISHI Aug. 19th, 1912.

Lord Carmichael.

67. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August has a paragraph extolling Lord Carmichael for the success which has attended his tours. His Excellency has pleased both high and low by his amiability and courtesy. He has seen things with

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

his own eyes and corrected abuses. He is also displaying zeal in promoting indigenous industries. In short, His Excellency has by his manner and conduct produced a soothing effect on the public mind. And the best of it is that eminent Civilians also, taking the cue from His Exellency, are giving up arrogant ways and are learning how to seek popular co-operation in securing the public good.

DAILY BHARAT MITRA, Aug. 24th, 1912.

Extension—a thunder-bolt.

68. The extension granted to Sir George Clark, Governor of Bombay, will be, says the *Daily Bharat Mitra*, [Calcutta] of the 24th August, like a thunder-bolt to the people of Bombay, for the Presidency enjoyed no peace during his rule, associated as it was with arrests, fines aud stationing of Punitive Police.

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1912.

Sir Charles Bayley.

69. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August has a paragraph lamenting that Sir Charles Bayley is not showing the deference to public opinion in the government of his province, which Lord Carmichael and Sir A. Earle are displaying in Bengal and in Assam, respectively. Evidently, His Honour has not yet been able to cast off the principles of rule he adopted in Eastern Bengal. Else, why should there be this discontent in a province which has always been notorious as the favourite place for salam-loving Civilians? Apparently, the aspirations which young Bihar cherished at the time of the creation of the new province, are yet some way off fulfilment. We should, therefore, ask young Bihar to moderate its pace a little and give up its anti-Bengali spirit.

## VI—MISCELLANEOUS.

NAYAK, Aug. 21st, 1912.

The Midnapore affair and sedition.

70. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st August has the following:—

We hope that what we have said about the Midnapore case during the last few days has, to a great extent, revealed the root-idea of sedition. If the head of the master of the household is turned, a devil's dance is sure to take place in the courtyard. In Sir Andrew Fraser's and Sir Bampfylde Fuller's time such dances did actually take place in many parts of Western and Eastern Bengal, and Midnapore was one of the centres of this sort of dancing. We shall tell the story of an incident in which we ourselves were concerned. Once, we happened to go to a Midnapore village for delivering a *swadeshi* speech. At ten at night, after we had reached the place, an Inspector of Police came to us and said "Sir, I want to search your bag and box":

I—why? Why should you search my bag?

Inspector—I have orders from Midnapore head-quarters.

I—Why has such an order been issued? What have I done?

Inspector—The information is that you have brought a big trunk full of bombs.

I—You could have confiscated that trunk while I was in the train coming here. What if all the bombs have already been distributed?

Inspector—I have hurried here just after receiving the order by telegraph. The Railway Police will think of the railway, what I have come here for is that I may not lose my service.

I—I regret, Sir, that I have not even brought a change of clothes, not to speak of a bag or a trunk.

Inspector—What? is the information of the head-quarters then wrong?

The police officer was, however, unyielding and searched every creek and corner of the house in which we put up. After 3 in the morning the poor fellow again came to us, gasping for breath. We then told him—"We knew before that in the Police Department all the idiots of the country are maintained by the Government. But to-day we see that there are not only fools but also many foolish knaves in the Department. If we had any intention to bring bombs, would we do so by putting them in a bag and then keep the bag in a corner of the house, so that you may come and pick it up without the least trouble. The beauty of the enquiry is quite in keeping with the stretch of your intelligence." The old police officer was abashed and went away.

What but troubles can you expect in a district in which the police authorities are so wanting in intelligence and the Magistrate sees a tiger in every bush? Even from our place in Calcutta, we knew what was going on in Midnapore, from samples of the late Rai Bahadur Benod Kumar Gupta's work here. The police could not prove any of the incidents which even people in Calcutta knew. The small town of Midnapore was completely within the clutches of the police, and yet no party could prove who had placed the bomb in Peary Dass's house, so that the matter is now as much enveloped in darkness as it was before. How could it be possible for a Magistrate, who was so much terror-stricken as to keep police-guards round his house day and night, to pacify Midnapore? The more rigour he adopted, the more did his weakness become patent to the people of the district. The Magistrate who, in times of danger, becomes possessed with fear for his life, can never rule a district. Whatever you may say, the judgment in the Midnapore case makes it clear in our mind that Mr. Weston is thoroughly unfit for service in the executive line. The person who will rule a district with his brains, ought to be an exceptionally courageous man, a man always ready to die. Compared with such District Magistrates as Allan Hume and George Yule, who maintained British supremecy in many places during the Sepoy Mutiny, Mr. Weston is worse than even a cat. Should you Civilians, the rulers of India, have lost all control over yourselves because a few misguided Bengali youths had fired double crackers and made a play of western anarchism? We think that had a military officer instead of Mr. Weston been the ruler of Midnapore, no trouble would have occurred there. We shall tell you what Sir Ashley Eden once said. After the occurrence of a terrible riot between Hindus and Musalmans at Bhagalpore on the question of cow-killing, the Lieutenant-Governor asked Magistrate Mr. Newbury, why has such an incident occured? The Magistrate replied, I do not know. Sir Ashley thereupon said, you are not then fit to be a District Magistrate, I have given you a police force and big officers and loyal subjects; if you cannot secure Information beforehand as to what will happen or can happen in different parts of the district, then what sort of a Magistrate are you? In fact, this is the right view of the thing. Why should a district Magistrate hit in the dark? Can a district be properly ruled if its Magistrate does not mix with its headmen and know their minds, and entirely depends on the Police for everything? Had a man like Sir George Campbell, Sir Ashley Eden, Sir Stuart Bayley or Sir Authony Macdonnell been the ruler of Bengal at present, it would have been difficult for a Magistrate like Mr. Weston to keep himself in service.

It seems to us that the relations amongst the rulers themselves are at present somewhat strained, as if the race of Civilians is opposed to Lord Hardinge's policy of administration, as if it gives undoubted joy to the Civilians to see His Excellency committing any mistake. As for the *Engiish-man* and the *Statesman*, it is but natural that their attitude will be one of antagonism, for they are the organs of the non-official Anglo-Indian community in Bengal. But why does the *Pioneer* go wrong? We think, because the Civilians in Bengal are wrathful. We educated Indians know that every Englishman is our master, and we greatly enjoy the fun if masters fight amongst themselves. Of course it affects us if a few lakhs are given to Mr. Clarke and Mr. Weston. But such incidents enable us to feel the pulse of the ruling community and know the state of its health. Plainly we say again, never were we, nor can we ever be opposed, to British rule. What we want is that the English should know us rightly and give us good government. India will never be ruled well by diplomacy. The Indians do not eat grass.* They understand moves and can checkmate their opponent by preventing all moves. We desire that the English should not be thus checkmated. But they are sure to be thus checkmated in future, if they make India a pinjarapole (asylum for disabled cattle) for English asses. No good will be done unless the government of India is vested in intelligent Englishmen, descended from good stock. You Englishmen, who are the rulers of India, will surely be worsted in the long run if you enter into a rivalry with your Indians subjects. The more you will stir a stinking affair like that of Midnapore, the more will the country be filled with its foul smell. We subject people can assume any aspect for the

* It means:—They are not silly like the grass-eating cattle.

sake of self-interest, we can be loyal, we can be sycophantic, we can be truthful. But remember that there is venom even in our flattery.

NAYAK
Aug. 22nd, 1912.

71. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August writes:—

Side reflections on the Midnapore judgment.

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that a public meeting will soon be called to honour Mr. K. B. Dutt. Considering how Mr. Dutt, in seeking to serve his country and save the honour of his countrymen, has been bitten by a set of good-for-nothing counsel and by Mr. Justice Woodroffe, it is the duty of every Bengali to apply balm to his wounds, and if necessary to get for him the cure for dog-bite sold at Gondalpara.

Some European papers demand that Government should compensate Mr. Weston and the police officers. Well and good. Let Mr. Weston have the reward traditional in Bengali fables, of half the kingdom and the hand of the King's daughter in marriage, and the other two officers also handsomely compensated. Certainly they had much mental agony to go through; let them be compensated by all means.

Continuing the paper writes:—

Mr. Justice Woodroffe has prepared a table of contents for the *Mahn Nirvan Tantra*. That is why in his judgment the *Tantra* has been made manifest. Hence the judgment is possessed of great force. As the judgment was written out at Puri, it naturally partakes of the nature of the food offered to the God Jagannath. This food consists mostly of worthless and cheap vegetables. Likewise, there is a large mass of worthless stuff in evidence in this judgment. It is impossible to go through it patiently. Perusal of it brings disgust to the mind, and you must throw it away from you before your equanimity of mind can be restored. We tried many times to read this judgment through, but without success.

NAYAK,
Aug. 21st, 1912.

72. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st August is glad to learn that preparations are being made to honour Mr. K. B. Dutt, for his noble self-sacrifice in connection with the Midnapore case, which has earned for him the gratitude of the Bengali nation. The paper wishes him a long and prosperous life, and hopes that he will alwys serve his country as he has done in the present case.

Honouring Mr. K. B. Dutt.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 22nd, 1912.

73. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August extols Mr. K. B. Dutt as the saviour of Midnapore, who risked his own safety to expose the doings of the police, and thereby saved several leading citizens from arrest. Yet such a philanthropist has unfortunately been blamed by the Judge for having pleaded the case of Peary Mohan Das. The paper learns that steps will soon be taken to mark the public appreciation of his services.

*Ibid.*

NAYAK,
Aug. 21st, 1912.

74. Why cannot the present-day highly advanced Babus, asks the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st August, pass a vote of censure against Mr. Justice Woodroffe, just as the late Raja Sir Radhakanta Deb, Ramgopal Ghose, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and other eminent men, in meeting assembled, passed one against Sir Mordaunt Wells for having abused the Bengali race? The Babus now-a-days say that Bengal has made great progress. Why not show this progress by speaking out like true men what you have in your hearts? Most probably, nay, surely, you will not be able to do that. Alas, the times that are gone!

Censuring Mr. Justice Woodroffe.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 22nd, 1912.

75. Referring to the call for Mr. Justice Fletcher's resignation made by some Anglo-Indian papers, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August writes that the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Fletcher are the two judges who most enjoy the public confidence for their impartiality. The public will not at all mind if any other Judge goes, but the retirement of either of the two above Judges will be most keenly felt as a loss by the whole country. If the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* are to have their way, justice and righteousness will cease to exist in this country. All Bengal respects and esteems Mr. Justice Fletcher for his impartiality.

Mr. Justice Fletcher praised.

HITAVADI,
Aug 23rd, 1912.

76. Referring to the demand made by some Calcutta newspapers that an enquiry should be made as to who financed the plaintiff in the Midnapore suit, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August asks that an enquiry

Rai Bahadur Bankim Chandra Ghose of Midnapore.

should be made as to what service Dr. Bankim Ghose did to merit a Rai Bahadurship, and who recommended him for the honour.

77. The *Marwari* [Calcutta] of the 20th August has been alarmed at the severance of England from the Sugar Convention, since this would give free hand to France, Germany and other countries to return to the previous system of granting liberal Government bounties to their home sugar industries, as a result of which foreign sugar will sell still cheaper in India and thus give a fatal blow to the already starving industry of this country.

MARWARI, Aug. 20th, 1913.

England and the Sugar Convention.

England should not have severed her connection from the Convention if she were alive to the interests of India, which will suffer heavily by the change. The people, however, do not know the cause that lies at the root of this sudden change in the policy of England, and it is quite probable that she has hit on some other (advantageous) scheme; for possessed of remarkable wisdom as she is, her eyes are ever keenly watchful of her interests; but she would give some attention at least to her dependency, India as well, which has added so much to her greatness and glory, and the people of which are so loyal and law-abiding. It is to be sadly deplored that, while the sugar industry in other countries is being considerably helped by their Government and is therefore in a very flourishing condition, no such State support is given to the industry in India, though it has no hope of survival without it.

78. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August writes that, though both Lords Crewe and Morley have declared publicly that India is never to have Colonial Self-government, Lord Reay in a recent public dinner to the new Advocate-General, Madras, declared that the problem of the future was to build up the British Empire on a basis of equal rights, and that if there was to be an Imperial Council in future to regulate the common concerns of the British Empire, India was to be represented on it along with the colonies. It would be interesting to know what were the feelings of Lords Crewe and Morley when reading this speech of Lord Reay. Will Lord Crewe tell us what they were?

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1913.

Self-government for India.

79. The vanity of Western Powers knows no decline as, says the *Daily Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th August, they declare the Orientals quite unfit to rule, although they see that the Orientals can rule as efficiently as themselves. They do not open their mouths against the atrocities of Russia. The condition of England during the last strike is not hidden from the readers, still the reputation of England has not suffered. On the other hand, the assassination of two Generals in China has raised a storm of condemnation of the country. Dr. Morrison has contradicted the charges against China, but the English papers are not going to be silenced even after this slap.

DAILY BHARAT MITRA, Aug. 24th, 1913.

The vanity of Western Powers.

80. Referring to the recent gift of the Maharaja of Gwalior to the Edinburgh University to found a Chair of Military Art, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August asks if this money was not got from His Highness's subjects, if Indian students would be admitted to the lectures of this new Professor, and if so, whether they would subsequently get any suitable appointments in the Army? Has His Highness removed all the miseries of his own subjects? After all charity begins at home. This gift of his will do no good to the people of India.

HITAVADI, Aug. 23rd, 1913.

A gift by the Maharaja of Gwalior.

## URIYA PAPERS.

81. In an article headed "The Cry of Bihar" the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 15th August, discusses the question of a separate University for the new province as follows:—

SAMVAD VAHIKA, Aug. 15th, 1913.

Proposal for a separate University for Bihar and Orissa.

"The University of Calcutta is an institution of long standing, with a solid foundation. She has a unique honour in the country and abroad, and a prestige peculiar to her own. It will be long ere such a position be attained by a new-born University.

"Then again, a University is not merely a congregation of a few educational institutions, but it is an association of geniuses and men of learning. We may here ask, of how many such men can Bihar boast as Dr. P. C. Rai, Dr. J. C. Bose, Professor Stephen or Babu Gowrisankar? Not one even. Are there Herambas, Asutoshes or Janakis in Bihar? We think none. Then how is it possible to create a centre of learning without any man of great learning? Bihar may come forward with one or two. Make that allowance. But Orissa, in her turn, must have a hand in that too. And who are they that will represent her there? The only competent soul of which we can boast is Mr. Das; and he is not an educationist. Then, a few young men who have recently been hatched out by the Calcutta University will go down to constitute a University, and have the reins of education in their province. Still men seek power, and they would have it at any cost in spite of stagnation and ruin to their country and brethren. Such ideas, such ambitions and such men are really disastrous to the advancement of learning, and will mar the very aim of a University.

"Besides that, the Government will have an upper hand in the management of affairs of a new University. Official intervention has been obviously known to be detrimental to proper education, and it is for this reason that independent Hindu and Muhammadan Universities are going to be created in the country. It is for this, too, that the National Council of Education was created in Bengal. We do not say that the existing University is free from that thraldom. But it is strong enough to raise a powerful voice, which the contemplated University can never dream of. Even that amount of independence is not possible for us.

"The last and the most important consideration is the consideration of money. Let us forget the Government grants and Government scholarships at all. The private benevolences of generous persons to the Calcutta University is uncountable. There are competition prizes and medals for nearly every subject in every examination. The Calcutta University is furnished with learned Professors and valuable libraries, and rich laboratories. We must be deprived of these things if a new Uuiversity be created, which at first must be poor and needy. Take for example the Roychand Premchand scholarship. The money has been allotted to the Calcutta University. The new University can never hope to have a share of it. The recent princely gift of Mr. T. Palit belongs to the Calcutta University. There are many other similar gifts and prizes of which we avail ourselves now being under the Calcutta University, and from which we shall be deprived if we create a new one for ourselves.

"It is quite obvious that there is no reason in the demand, except malice and ill-will. The spirit of separatism has swayed the heads of young Beharees who are demanding this thing merely on a sentimental point of view. The policy of protectionism has been misapplied to the case of education. Protection and reservation may bear much good where there are questions of political rights and advantages. But the same is uncongenial towards a healthy advancement of learning. Freedom from contact with an advanced people will rather deter than foster educational regeneration.

"With this much, we invite the thinking heads of our province for deliberate and calm consideration."

UTKALDIPIKA, Aug. 17th, 1912.

Protest against a High Court at Patna.

82. Referring to the prayer of the people of Jheria to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar snd Orissa, at the time of His Honour's visit to the place on the 20th July last, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th August writes that the establishment of a High Court at Patna is calculated to be conducive to the benefit and convenience of the inhabitants of Bihar only, and not to those of any other sub-province. Consequently, it does not seem probable that Government will put to inconvenience people of so many other places for the sake of the Biharis only. Let us see what decision the wise authorities come to in this matter; but we are firm in holding that there should not be established a separate High Court at Patna. If a High Court be ever established at Patna, it is not probable that it can count amongst its Judges more than two natives of the province; but the Calcutta High Court has at present two Biharis amongst its Judges. Moreover, it is

no more than a dream for the people of Orissa to hope for a seat in any High Court Bench. When no native of Orissa has as yet ventured to practise as a Vakil even in the Calcutta High Court, which is nearer his home, it will indeed be very hard for him to go to practice in the far off unhealthy city of Patna, with a view to obtain the seat of a Judge in the High Court there. Only a very few cases go up to the High Court from Orissa for appeal; the poor Uriyas cannot go far from home, and can never hope to get sympathy from any one at Patna. Those Uriyas who plead for the Patna High Court are very limited in number, and never think of the convenience and the safety of life and property of their countrymen. The people of Bihar are trying their best for a High Court at Patna and it is very easy for them to say that, when the Provincial Capital is to be located at Patna and the people of Orissa will have to come there on business, they should not object to their coming to the High Court to be located there, on the ground of distance only. But the Biharis should know that it is very seldom that people have to go up to the seat of Government for redress of grievances, while on the other hand they are very often required to attend the High Court, in which cases generally drag on their listless course. There is an English proverb, "unequal combination is always disadvantageous to the weaker side." In the present combination we represent "the weaker side" and as the yoke does not touch our neck, we are simply dragged on.

Orissa Agricultural Association and the Government model farm.

83. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th August gives an account of the annual meeting of the Orissa Agricultural Association held under the presidency of the Commissioner, Orissa Division, and remarks that the agricultural model farm at Bidyadharpur has been conducive to the benefit of the people. Much expense is incurred by Government on account of this farm, and it is a happy thing that good crops are grown there. It were well if an account of annual income and expenditure of the farm were read in the meeting, for the agriculturists feel more interested to know the amount of net profit in growing a particular crop, than to see simply that it grows well. The paper heard it remarked by some of them that the Government is not in want of money, and therefore they spend lavishly on the farm in order to hold a show of good crops, but the profit from the farm is not compatible with the expenditure on it. Publication of an account of income and expenditure can only remove this impression from the mind of these people.

UTKALDIPIKA. Aug. 17th, 1912.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
*The 31st August 1912.*

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CONFIDENTIAL] [No. 35 of 1912.

# REPORT (PART II)

ON

# NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

## Week ending Saturday, 31st August 1912.

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## LIST OF NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH BY THE BENGAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

*[As it stood on 1st January 1912.]*

| No. | Name of Publication. | Where published. | Edition. | Name, caste and age of Editor. | Circulation. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | "Amrita Bazar Patrika" | Calcutta ... | Daily ... | Kali Prasanna Chatterji, age 48, Brahmin | 1,500 to 4,000 |
| 2 | "Bengalee" * ... ... | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Surendra Nath Banerji and Kali Nath Roy. | 6,500 to 8,500 |
| 3 | "Hindoo Patriot" ... | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari, age 44, and Kailash Chandra Kanjilal, pleader, Small Cause Court, also contributes. | 800 to 1,000 |
| 4 | "Indian Echo" ... | Ditto ... | Weekly ... | Kunju Behary Bose, age 45, Kayastha... | 600 |
| 5 | "Indian Empire" ... | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Kishori Mohan Banerji and H. Dutt ... | 2,000 |
| 6 | "Indian Mirror" ... | Ditto ... | Daily ... | Satyendra Nath Sen ... ... | 1,000 to 1,506 |
| 7 | "Indian Nation" ... | Ditto ... | Weekly ... | Noresh Chandra Sarbadhikari and Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari. | 1,000 |
| 8 | "Musalman" ... | Ditto ... | Do. ... | A. Rasul and M. Rahman ... ... | 1,000 to 1,500 |
| 9 | "Reis and Rayyet" ... | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Jogesh Chandra Dutt, age 61 years ... | 400 |
| 10 | "Telegraph" ... | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Satyendra Kumar Bose ... ... | 2,000 |
| 11 | "Comrade" ... | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Mr. Mahomed Ali, B.A. (Oxon.), age 30 years. | 2,500 |
| 12 | "Herald" ... | Dacca ... | Do. ... | Pryo Nath Sen ... ... | ... ... |
| 13 | "East" ... | Do. ... | Bi-weekly ... | ..... | ..... |

* Has not been published for the last six months, and most probably it will not be published again.

## PART II OF THE WEEKLY REPORT.

*Additions to, and alterations in, the List of Vernacular Newspapers as it stood on the 1st June 1912.*

| No. | Name of Publication. | Where published. | Edition. | Name, caste and age of Editor. | Circulation. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New | "Worlds Messenger" ... | No. 18, Kali Prasad Chakraberty's Street. | Monthly (English). | Raghu Probir Mitra (Hindu), age 22 years. | 100 copies. |
| Do. | "Current Indian Cases" (a law paper). | No. 1-1, College Square, East. | Monthly (English). | Monindra Nath Mitter and Brothers (Kayastha), age 32 years. | Ditto. |

## I.—Foreign Politics.

1426. Commenting on the efforts of the French to bring Morocco under their complete control, the *Mussalman* is glad at the renewed activity of the inhabitants of southern Morocco, and if the "Pretender" El-Heba transpires to be a strong and tactful man, it hopes the time may come when the French will realise that the conquest of Morocco is not so easy as it was expected to be. Whether there is any reasonable hope or not of the French being ultimately driven out of the country is, however, a different question, but there is no reason why the people should not present a bold front before they accept the inevitable.

Morocco.

Mussalman, 23rd Aug. 1912.

## II.—Home Administration.

### (a)—*Police.*

1427. A correspondent under the *nom-de-plume* "An Indian Observer" writes as follows to the *Indian Mirror*:—"In the Government resolution on the administration of the Calcutta police, the Governor says that the Training School for the Police should be removed from Bhagalpur to the neighbourhood of Calcutta, as the natural result of the modification of the provincial boundaries. There are several sites in the east of Calcutta, where a school may be established. In Bagmari (Muraripukur), Tangra, Gobra, Tiljalla or Ballygunge, East, may easily be found 100 or 150 bighas of land for such a school, which must have a very spacious ground for the drill, exercise, and accommodation of the recruits. Now that Bengal has been separated from Bihar, a serious attempt should be made to recruit the police from the Bengali population. The castes and classes that are supplying the paiks, peons, and chaukidars should be requisitioned for the recruitment of the police. I believe the constables would be less corrupt and more efficient in the detection of crime in Bengal if the constables were Bengalis. This experiment may be tried in a district of each division. It is no use to talk of local autonomy, so long as the constables and the soldiers are mere mercenaries, with no tie with the people of the country."

Training School for the Bengal Police.

Indian Mirror, 23rd Aug. 1912.

1428. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, writes:—"Lord Carmichael, in reply to a deputation of the Dacca People's Association, is reported to have said that the Government would consider the release of political suspects from surveillance. There is no doubt that not only is this system of espionage needless, and swallowing a large amount of public money of an impecunious Government, but it is doing unmitigated mischief both to the rulers and the ruled. By creating widespread discontent and unrest in the country, it is retarding the cause of order, peace, and good government. Fancy the position of the so-called suspects under surveillance. Watched and dogged day and night, they are made to feel as if they were the dregs of society, who do not deserve to exist. As a rule, two detectives are employed to keep an eye over every suspect from morning to evening by turn. They wear plain clothes and take their seat in a shop or stall, facing the house in which the suspect resides. When the latter goes out the detective follows his steps—if he stops, the detective stops; and if he enters a house, the detective waits outside till he comes out. In this way, not only is the unfortunate young man subjected to constant annoyance, but his efforts to secure a living are frustrated. For very few will engage the services of one who is hunted down by the police like a wild animal. If he has any shop, people will avoid it, and his business will be ruined. Even students have been converted into spies, and we shall shortly give an account as to how some of them have degraded themselves so far as to become instruments in the hands of detectives for some paltry sum of money in order to ruin their fellow-students by submitting false reports against them."

Police espionage.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23rd Aug. 1912.

TELEGRAPH, 24th Aug. 1912.

Police espionage.

1429. Writing on the same subject the *Telegraph* observes:—"The question of police surveillance is one which has been troubling and agitating the public mind in this and other provinces for several years now. And though it is admitted on all hands, even by the Government itself, that the political atmosphere has cleared up and that peace and order once more reign in the land, still the system of police surveillance continues to be adopted everywhere, much to the inconvenience, discomfort, and trouble of the people. We had been hoping that the measure would be given the go-by under the enlightened administration of Lord Carmichael. But evidently we had counted without our host. The reader will remember how we announced when there was a rumour of doing away with the Special Branch of the C. I. D. that we are not prepared to believe that His Excellency would take such a step, merely on the representation of the public against the wishes of his subordinates without first personally acquainting himself with the actual state of affairs. The public will now see how our estimate of the situation has been fulfilled; but still we believe there is hardly any reason for continuing the system of police surveillance, except perhaps in a few extreme cases, which does nothing but harm. Why, it keeps up the fire of unrest, creates suspicion, and presses heavily on people. Moreover, it swallows up a considerable amount in paying ill-conditioned informers who are a pest to society. We are glad, therefore, to learn on the authority of the *Bengalee* that a deputation of the People's Association of Dacca waited recently on His Excellency the Governor and prayed for the release from political surveillance of all those who are still under it. We are further glad to learn from the same source that Lord Carmichael has replied that Government would consider the prayer. This is cheering news. Indeed, from what we have seen of His Lordship we may confidently expect that something would now be done in the matter. We agree with our contemporary that His Excellency's Government will in this matter, as in all others, consult and abide by the wishes of the population. We must, however, say that His Lordship might have been justified in the interests of good government to put undesirable people under surveillance if the state of the country demanded it; but when it is admitted that unrest and disaffection are things of the past there can no longer be any necessity. Moreover, the surveillance as practised by the Indian police defeats, as we have said again and again, its very object and should, therefore, be abandoned for good."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 26th Aug. 1912.

The Jagatsi *Asram* incident.

1430. Reverting to the Jagatsi *Asram* incident, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* brings to notice that the trial has ended in the conviction of the accused *sanyasis*, their leader Dayananda being sentenced to 18 months and others to various terms of imprisonment. This severe punishment will naturally create great surprise in the public mind, as, judging from the telegraphic summary of the proceedings of the trial, it seems that all that they did was to use tridents, not very formidable weapons, against the police, while the latter fired on them without orders and wounded many of them, one of whom died in hospital. Indeed, it is not very clear why guns and bayonets were at all used. The proceedings of the trial for fuller light on this sensational incident are awaited.

*(b)—Working of the Courts.*

MUSSALMAN, 23rd Aug. 1912.

The Midnapore judgment.

1431. Commenting on the Midnapore case, the *Mussalman* writes:—"The decision of Mr. Justice Woodroffe in the Midnapore case has not surprised anybody, for it was already a foregone conclusion. We do not also find fault with the Appellate Court for having reversed the judgment of Mr. Justice Fletcher, for Judges now and then disagree and arrive at different conclusions from the same materials and the same evidence placed before them. But what has surprised the public is the unnecessarily strong remarks Mr. Justice Woodroffe has thought fit to make in regard to his brother Judge, Mr. Justice Fletcher. It is very apparent that Mr. Justice Woodroffe was not in a judicial frame of mind when writing the judgment, and the intemperate language is not, we

regret to say, in consonance with the sober dignity of the High Court. If Mr. Justice Fletcher had erred in his judgment he certainly did so in good company. There was, we think, no occasion for Mr. Woodroffe who, by mere accident, with his two colleagues, formed the Appellate Court in this connection, to show so much spleen and temper in regard to one who was no less than a peer of his. It is a great pity that Justice Woodroffe went out of his way to deliver a judgment so undignified and so unjudicial in tone."

1432. In further commenting on the subject, the *Bengalee* writes :— "The prominent characteristics of Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment are three in number—(1) The unwarranted strictures passed upon Mr. Justice Fletcher ; (2) the vigorous tirade on Mr. K. B. Dutt; and (3) the wholesale condemnation of the plaintiff's witnesses. The sight is unseemly ; to see a Judge slashing a brother-Judge is not an edifying spectacle ; such a scene is not calculated to raise, in our opinion, the prestige and dignity of the High Court. Indian opinion is unanimous that Mr. Justice Fletcher's judgment is right; Anglo-Indian opinion is divided. We have no hesitation in stating that our respect and esteem for, and confidence in, Mr. Justice Fletcher will remain unshaken, despite any observations that Mr. Justice Woodroffe may have made against him in the course of his voluminous judgment. The heat and passion which permeate the criticisms of the learned Judge of the Appellate Court would have done credit to counsel for Mr. Weston, but are scarcely consistent with the dignity of the Judicial Bench."

HERALD, 24th Aug. 1912.

The Midnapore judgment.

1433. The *Telegraph* comments as follows on the same subject :—"We condemn the action of the Government which sanctioned the appeal and took upon itself to find the funds for the purposes thereof, because but for this the world would not have witnessesed the spectacle that it does witness. True, the good name and reputation of officers should be the concern of every Government ; but in the face of the judgments of not only Mr. Justice Fletcher but also of the Chief Justice of Bengal, the Government might and should have fairly left the officials concerned to their fate. And we should also remember the whole volume of public opinion stood in support of these judgments. By appealing, therefore, against Mr. Justice Fletcher's decree, the Government has, in a manner, belittled the judiciary. The plaintiff, no doubt, is fighting for a principle ; but even then, there is such a thing as common sense. And in this view, we are not sure if he will be well advised to proceed further in the matter. These are some of the outstanding features of the suit."

TELEGRAPH, 24th Aug. 1912.

*Ibid.*

1434. In the course of an article headed "An Acme of Irony" the *Bengalee* writes :—"We observe that in the Midnapore Appeal all the three learned Judges were agreed that the suit was barred by limitation, and ought on that ground alone to have been thrown out by the trial Judge. May we respectfully ask, what was there to prevent their Lordships of the Appeal Court, if they were so firmly convinced of the error of Mr. Justice Fletcher, from throwing out the suit themselves on that very ground in their own Court ? What use was there, in that event, for allowing the case to go on before them at such great length and such enormous expenditure of the tax-payer's money ? What necessity was there, then, of inditing a portentous defence of those against whom, in their own view of the matter, the law recognised no valid claim or relief ? What justification, we ask, was there, in that case, for pouring out in such unmitigated abundance tons of vitriol upon the devoted heads of those who had the misfortune to conduct or to support, with their evidence, the plaintiff's suit, if the suit was really so hopelessly bad on the point of limitation ? It will be seen that Mr. Justice Chatarji, who deals at the very outset of his judgment with the question of limitation, himself says that the view which he took of the matter was sufficient to dispose of the case. And yet we have the spectacle of reams of paper being devoted by Mr. Justice Woodroffe to an examination of that which was and must be regarded as wholly needless !"

BENGALEE, 24th Aug. 1912.

*Ibid.*

1435. "The indiscriminate arrests, confinements, and consequent sufferings in the Midnapore case," writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, "do not show that the local authorities of Midnapore were very much terrorised by the inhabitants. On the other hand,

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 26th Aug. 1912.

*Ibid.*

they go to prove that never were perhaps His Majesty's Indian subjects trampled under foot with greater impunity and relentlessness than the unfortunate people of Midnapore. The arrests of the Raja of Narajole and other leading men of position and wealth and their incarceration in jail are no less humanity staggering. We shall describe them in due course. Indeed, the whole of this Midnapore scandal must be again laid bare before the world in all its nakedness to show how the days of Titus Oates were revived in that district; and yet none of those responsible for this load of human misery punished up till now."

INDIAN EMPIRE, 27th Aug. 1912.

The Midnapore judgment.

1436. The *Indian Empire* writes:—"The *Benyalee* regrets that our countryman, Mr. Justice Chatarji, has supported the judgment of the majority. We do not find anything to get sorry for; because we were prepared for some such spectacle, when he had been dragged from comparative obscurity in the corner of the Bar Library and raised to the Bench. Bankura, His Lordship's native place, has produced many eminent lawyers, who had contributed to the preservation of the high prestige of the High Court, such as the late lamented Jagadananda Mukharji and others. But he has surpassed them all! These be thy Gods, Oh Bankura! The judgment of Mr. Justice Fletcher has been reversed by the Appellate Court. But there is nothing strange in that. The decision of one Judge is pronounced wrong by another Court, and that is the object of the appeal. It is being done every day in India. But it had never been our lot to witness a Judge of the High Court attacking his colleague in unwarrantable language as was exhibited by Mr. Justice Woodroffe on Mr. Justice Fletcher. The *Indian Daily News* has been 'amused at the rollicking savagery of Mr. Justice Woodroffe posing as the Bad Samaritan rubbing in vinegar and sulphuric acid into his brother Fletcher whom he has found on the way-side!' It was hardly a dignified sight to all concerned. Mr. Justice Fletcher is universally respected for his independence and sense of even-handed justice. He is one of the few Judges who has been able to preserve the reputation of the tribunal over which he presides. We are not at all surprised that such a man should incur the displeasure, nay, open hatred of the Anglo-Indian journals. They want to tear him up like a pack of wolves. Here is a golden opportunity offered them by the reversal of his judgment accompanied with a 'savage attack' by Mr. Justice Woodroffe."

HERALD 27th Aug. 1912.

*Ibid.*

1437. Referring to the same subject, the *Herald* writes:—"We are afraid the true significance of the nature of Justice Woodroffe's pronouncements is not understood by the majority of the British officials and their countrymen. On an analysis we can easily see what grave results are likely to ensue from the almost vituperative style in which Justice Woodroffe has gone to deal with the judgment of the lower court. It must be noted here that Justice Woodroffe has been known all along to be one of the most upright Judges of the High Court. This palpable instance of aberration, for we can explain the utterances in this instance of Justice Woodroffe in no other way, will therefore cast a great gloom on the mass of the educated public of this country. In spite of strange decisions which during the past decade or two marred sometimes the fair name of the highest tribunal in the land, the Bench was always fortunate in being adorned by one or more of those independent Justices who kept up the best traditions of even-handed British justice. Justice Woodroffe was regarded as one of these great upholders of an even scale between the strong and the weak. To see him falling off from the almost ideal position is a wrench to our countrymen. The position of the High Court should always be strong and for ever, as it has always done, it should bring the mightiest support to the British rule in India. This has been, our countrymen in general may be excused in thinking, greatly weakened by the last pronouncements of Justice Woodroffe, which do not appear to them in keeping with the dignity of a High Court judgment."

INDIAN MIRROR, 27th Aug. 1912.

*Ibid.*

1438. On the same subject the *Indian Mirror* goes on to say:—"It is easy enough to understand that a section of the Indian community is considerably excised over the result of the appeal. The appellate judgment of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe which took over a month in writing, and two or three days in reading out, has

been criticised off-hand, without, so far as we can see, any attempt to grasp it. It is also forgotten that the finding of the Appellate Court is the finding of three distinguished Judges of the High Court. The composition of the Appellate Bench was the best that could be desired, the Bench consisted of a barrister Judge, a civilian Judge and a vakil Judge. They heard the appeal patiently for a considerable time, and their joint-finding is that the judgment of the first court was wrong. To say that the three Judges have come to an incorrect finding and the first court was right, is the ignoring of reason and good sense alike. The other day, our countrymen held a public meeting in the Calcutta Town Hall to express their implicit confidence in the High Court; and, now because of the Midnapore judgment, we see them lashing themselves into fury! Where is consistency, where is reason, where is good sense, where is fidelity? . . . . . Nothing can be more deplorable than the growing tendency to criticise judicial acts and methods from a political or partisan point of view. The party that is dissatisfied with Mr. Justice Woodsroffe's judgment has its remedy in appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, but it has certainly no justification for disrespectful remarks on the High Court. We are sorry to say that we feel that the best traditions of journalism have been cast overboard by some papers in connection with this case. The result will be disastrous if those who administer justice have to be at the mercy of political critics or a partisan press. Some of the comments which have appeared lately in either section of the press are clearly against all canons of fair and legitimate criticism."

The Midnapore judgment.

1438. "It will be seen from the telegraphic communications from Dacca and Barisal." observes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, "that public opinion is at last shocked out of its inertia by the prospect of the disastrous consequences threatened by the Privy Council judgment in the Clarke case as well as the High Court judgment in the Midnapore case. Indeed, so widespread has been the feeling of alarm and discontent throughout the length and breadth of the land that it is expected that all important centres of public opinion will echo it in unequivocal language. It is said that out of evil cometh good. And if, as a result of these two unfortunate judgments, public indignation is at last focussed to a burning point, that will consume all the remaining obstacles of bureaucratic orthodoxy and official prejudice against the separation of executive from judical functions, Babus Brojendra Kishore and Peary Mohun Das shall not have suffered in vain. As to Mr. K. B. Dutt and his patriotic and disinterested services in the cause of the weak and the oppressed, the only result of Justice Woodroffe's judgment has been to raise the former in the estimation of the public in proportion to its tendency to lower it."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 26th Aug. 1912.

The *Times* and the High Court.

1439. "Now that Mr. Justice Fletcher's judgment has been reversed," writes the *Bengalee*, "the *Times* comes back to the charge that the High Court needs to be carefully enquired into, with redoubled fury. It demands an urgent and searching investigation into the personnel and methods of at least some branches of the Calcutta High Court by an eminent judicial authority from England. The Court, the *Times* says, has always included, and does now include, Judges of the highest attainments and legal qualifications, but at present it needs to be purged of the element that at times aims not solely at the administration of law, but at the gratification of political predilections. It is a calumny to say—a calumny which would not be tolerated in England for a day—that there are Judges on the Bench of the High Court who administer justice in order to gratify political predilections. A Judge on the Bench has no politics; and let it be said to the lasting credit of the High Court that the quality of the justice administered by it, in spite of occasional aberrations—and what human institution is there which is free from them?—has been singularly free from the taint of political or racial bias. What has often happened is that when any case has been decided by the High Court adverse to executive authority, a section of the extremists in the Anglo-Indian Press have raised the cry of racial or political prejudice. They have done so openly or covertly. . . . . As for an investigation, let there be one. For we are confident that if conducted by an eminent judicial authority from England, untainted by local prejudice, the result will afford the completest refutation of the insinuations now made, and

BENGALEE, 24th Aug. 1912.

will demonstrate the great service which the High Court has rendered to the Government and the people."

INDIAN EMPIRE, 27th Aug. 1912.

Purnea sensation.

1440. Referring to the decision of the District Magistrate, Purnea, in a case in which one Mr. A. G. Williams, Manager of the Darbhanga Raj, was prosecuted for assaulting a school-boy named Dwarka Prasad, the *Indian Empire* writes:—"Though the charge has been fully proved, the Magistrate has fined the accused Rs. 30 only! We hope the guardians of the boy will not let the matter rest here. They should, if so advised, sue the *saheb* for damages in a Civil Court, which will debar others from similarly 'whiping and slapping' other boys, if they happen to incur their displeasure. Will the Maharaja Bahadur call for an explanation from Mr. Williams for his unmanly act?"

BENGALEE. 27th Aug. 1912.

Complaint against a Munsif.

1441. The *Bengalee* has been receiving a series of complaints against a Munsif of Chandpur from its own correspondent. Use of abusive language towards pleaders is of very common occurrence in his court. His judicial vagaries surpass his discourteous behaviour. The climax was attained some days ago, when the learned Munsif cancelled an order *in camera* and dismissed a suit. All this happened, of course, in the absence of all parties. Application for copies of the orders was not accepted. The learned Munsif, however, realized his position and gave out that he would accept a review suit if filed. The correspondent draws the attention of the authorities to the vagaries of this judicial officer.

BENGALEE, 28th Aug. 1912.

Jubilee of the High Court.

1442. With reference to the function in the Town Hall on Saturday, the 24th August, in connection with the Jubilee of the High Court, the *Bengalee* writes:—"It cannot possibly be denied that just at this moment Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment in the Midnapore case is the topic of conversation everywhere; and it has caused a feeling of widespread dissatisfaction among all sections of the Indian community. But this feeling has in no way affected either the prestige or the popularity of the High Court as an institution. The prestige as well as the popularity of the High Court will, indeed, remain unshaken so long as the Judges, with occasional exceptions, will continue to mete out substantial justice to litigants in fear of God and of no man—the highest distinction of a British and, may we not also say, an Indian Judge? May this distinction continue for all time to come—is the fervent prayer of all who wish well to this country and also to British rule."

BENGALEE, 29th Aug. 1912.

Sealdah Police Court.

1443. The *Bengalee* complains vehemently against the Magistrate of the Sealdah Police Court. Seldom, if ever, the journal urges, have such stringent measures been adopted by a Magistrate as those which have been put into force by the Police Magistrate of Sealdah Police Court, whose attitude to press representatives and members of the legal profession alike, is a distinct departure from the attitude adopted by the present incumbent's predecessors. For the past four or five days, pleaders, mukhtears, and press representatives have been forbidden to enter any of the offices of the Police Magistrate's Court, and the latter, when in search of information, have been told by those who formerly had the power to give out information (not of a confidential nature) to go to the Police Magistrate for whatever information they required. The cause of this trouble, however, appears to be due to a report which appeared in the morning papers, showing how cases were kept pending at the Sealdah Police Court.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 29th Aug. 1912.

Incident in the Magura tea estate.

1444. Commenting on the incident in the Magura tea estate which resulted in the death of a cooly, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—"We have no desire to prejudge the case, but taking the most favourable view of it, the Manager cannot at least escape a certain amount of moral responsibility in the matter. For it is not denied that he gave the poor fellow two slaps and the latter, no doubt frightened by his master's fiery attitude, fell down and met his death. Under such circumstances, even if the Manager is acquitted by the Criminal Court, he should certainly be made to pay a sufficient amount of compensation to the unfortunate woman when his action was at least indirectly responsible in depriving her of her life's partner and maintainer. We cannot believe that the matter will be allowed to be burked by such a keen-sighted, just-minded, and sympathetic ruler as Sir A. Earle."

(*d*)—*Education.*

1445. Harking back to the Calcutta Madrassa scandal, the *Mussalman* writes:—"The public, so far as we are aware, are extremely anxious to know the result of the enquiry held by the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Cumming, Mr. H. R. James, and Nawab Saiyid Muhammad, the three members of the Committee appointed by Government, in regard to the lucrative traffic in question papers that went on in the Arabic Department of the Calcutta Madrassa before the last Annual Examination. We do not, however, know whether the enquiry is yet finished but, so far as we have been able to gather, it has not been very properly conducted. Nawab Saiyid Muhummad acted as the interpreter between the witnesses and his two European colleagues, and we are informed all that the witnesses said was not recorded. Moreover, he is reported to have frequently shown his temper when unexpected statements of a serious nature and damaging character were made by the witnesses. We have no desire to make any comment on this, and the public will draw their own conclusion from this attitude on the part of a member of the Committee."

The Calcutta Madrassa scandal.

MUSSALMAN, 23rd Aug. 1912.

1446. Writing on moral and religious instructon, the *Mussalman* observes:—"The Government being pledged to maintain religious neutrality in this country, has so long refrained from making provision for any sort of religious education in undenominational institutions, but the force of public opinion for such education is so great that Government cannot, it appears, any longer resist the time-spirit and is now inclined to act up to popular wishes. But the question arises as to how to provide for the religious education of the followers of different creeds, reading in the same institutions. As for moral instruction, it is not difficult to compile books on morality, which boys belonging to different religious faiths can read with advantage, but religious instruction cannot be imparted through any common book. We think, however, that this problem too can be satisfactorily solved if the practice followed in the matter of teaching second language in schools and colleges be adopted in this case too. In schools and colleges there are separate class rooms for Persian or Arabic teachers, and boys from different classes go there at appointed times to have lessons on their second language. In this way separate class rooms for the religious education of Hindu, Mussalman or Christian boys may be opened in all undenominational institutions, and the followers of every creed may have instruction in their own religion. The religious neutrality which the Government so rightly desires to maintain will not thus be violated in the least."

Moral and religious instruction.

MUSSALMAN, 23rd Aug. 1912.

1447. In the course of an article on education the *Bengalee* writes:—"A great department, dealing with education, under the Government of India, has recently been inaugurated. It is presided over by a member of the Civil Service possessing great tact and ability. It is a new department and its usefulness has yet to be vindicated. We are unwilling to indulge in personal reflections. It is contrary to the practice which we usually follow. But when the *personnel* of a great department interferes with its popularity, which, in most cases, means its efficiency, we feel bound to depart from this practice. It is an open secret that the appointment of Mr. Sharpe as Secretary to the Education Department was not regarded with popular favour. Nothing has since happened to justify a change in the popular attitude. In this connection it may not be out of place to refer to a kindred matter which is exercising the minds of the educated community in Bengal. Notwithstanding the elevation of Bengal to the status of a Presidency Government, His Excellency the Viceroy remains Chancellor of the Calcutta University. It is a great honour done to our University which the people of Bengal recognize and for which they are grateful. But we think we state the bare truth when we say that, amid the multitude of important matters which must claim His Excellency's attention, the problems which affect the Calcutta University are necessarily left to be dealt with by the newly organized Education Department, that is to say, to a very considerable extent by Mr. Sharpe and his colleagues. . . . Under these circumstances it seems to us that it would be altogether a better arrangement if His Excellency the Governor were made Chancellor, as we have it in the case of other

Education.

BENGALEE, 23rd Aug. 1912.

presidencies. There is, of course, the obvious objection that the new province of Bihar although under the same University is under a separate Government and the same remark applies to Burma. The objection is, however, technical, and need not stand in the way of a change which must take place sooner or later and which will make Bengal self-contained. Both Burma and Bihar are bound to have their Universities within a measurable distance of time."

COMRADE, 24th Aug. 1912.

**The Moslem University funds.**

1448. With reference to a letter from "An English well-wisher," who proposes that instead of establishing a new Moslem University from which the Government has decided to withhold the power of affiliation, the Muhammadans should apply the funds to the promotion of elementary and secondary education among the Muhammadans, the *Comrade* writes:—"There is no doubt that Moslem education requiries enormous and systematic efforts in these directions. But the Moslem University project represents an entirely separate movement, which is based on the deep-seated conviction of the Mussalmans that their supreme need is to evolve a distinct type of higher education for their community. The true secret of the hold of Aligarh on popular sympathies is that it represents that ideal and has led the way. The funds have been subscribed on the understanding that the ideal has at last come within sight. To divert the money to any other channel would amount to a breach of a solemn trust. Even from a practical standpoint the need for a University where the educational ideals would materialise is greater than the multiplication of schools and colleges on the lines of the existing State institutions. The growth of a common centre where the type of education would be evolved in accordance with the needs of the Mussalmans would give much more powerful impetus to Moslem education throughout the country than the random growth of aimless institutions in different places. The Moslem educational problem cannot be treated piecemeal. The inspiration of Aligarh has been so fruitful because of its generous idealism and its ample and unifying purpose. If the Mussalmans would fail to get a University of the type they have all along laboured to create, the money might best be spent in building a mausoleum, on the portals of which might be inscribed the words: 'Here lies an ideal done to death.'"

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 28th Aug. 1912.

**The prayer of the Faridpur District Board.**

1449. Criticising His Excellency the Governor's reply to the Faridpur District Board that he could not give the members of the District Board any hope that their request for a second grade college would be granted at once, on the ground that very large expenditure will probably be incurred at Dacca on higher education, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes as follows:—"Paraphrased in bald prose, it means nothing more or less than this. That all the local and urgent needs of the districts will be starved to meet the cost of a Dacca University. Indeed, it is said that a Vice-Chancellor on Rs. 2,500 per mensem and 75 Professors on Rs. 1,500 each are proposed to be imported from England for that University! Of course, we know His Excellency is quite helpless in the matter, but then it may be asked in all seriousness,—can this arrangement satisfy the people of Faridpur? When a number of hungry people ask you for a potful of rice to appease their hunger with, is it not rather hard on them if they are told, 'well, we have got no rice to give you, it is all used in preparing *polao* for some selected people at a big town: if you wish to quench the rebellion of your epigastrium go to that paradise and purchase *polao* there.' It remains to be seen how many of those turned away relish or are able to respond to this invitation for *polao*."

### (*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HERALD, 23rd Aug. 1912.

**The Union system.**

1450. Commenting on the union system, the Manikganj correspondent of the *Herald* writes as follows:—"The present system of Village Union with a President at its head was inaugurated by Mr. Savage, who retired from the Indian Civil Service some time ago. Mr. Savage cannot, however, claim originality for his scheme. The union system in India can be traced back to a heary antiquity —those olden days of the ancient Hindu kings—when the rural population evolved a system of village autonomy, which was in a far more advanced state

than the present one. Mr. Savage was certainly prompted by the best of intentions in introducing his system. The working of the system for the last few years has led us to believe that it has failed of the object which actuated its author in introducing it. It was evidently meant to be a supplement to the police, and we presume its author, while formulating the scheme, had in view the temptations, to which some members of the Subordinate Police fall easy victims, and upon which he intended it to be a check. Generally speaking, the system has become exceedingly unpopular. Of course we base our opinion upon the results of the experiments which have so far been made in our subdivision. It is, therefore, time Government reconsidered the desirability of keeping up the system."

Self-governing institutions.

1451. With reference to the remark of His Excellency Lord Carmichael encouraging local self-governing institutions in his recent speech at Feridpur, the *Bengalee* observes:— BENGALEE, 27th Aug. 1912.

"The institutions which have grown up in India under the name of self-governing institutions are, indeed, a little difficult to understand for any man who has gained his knowledge of, and experience in regard to, this class of institutions in Western countries, and this for the simple reason that our institutions are not truly self-governing. The amount of official control which is exercised over them is not to be met with in England or any other self-governing part of the British Empire, and is entirely incompatible with the basic principle of self-government, local or otherwise."

District Boards and non-official Chairmen.

1452. In the course of an article on District Boards and non-official Chairman, the *Bengalee* writes:—"Indian public opinion has expressed itself in unequivocal terms, and at our Provincial Conferences we have from year to year repeated the demand for the experiment being tried in the case of selected District Boards with non-official Chairmen. We have at least one high official authority who favoured this view; and that was the late Mr. Toynbee who rose to be a member of the Board of Revenue. The experiment has not yet been tried in a single case. There is a body of official opinion on the one side, and there is an overwhelming consensus of non-official opinion on the other. Under the circumstances it seems to us to be only right and proper to test these conflicting views by an appeal to an actual experiment under conditions that may seem fair and just. Sooner or later, sooner rather than later, the experiment will have to be tried. Far better and more statesmanlike would it be to anticipate the inevitable and to avoid controversy and irritation." BENGALEE, 28th Aug. 1912.

Removal of Kotulpur Munsifi to Bishnupur.

1453. A correspondent under the *nom-de-plume* X writes as follows to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—"In these days when our authorities are busily engaged in partitioning the administrative areas, we are really surprised to hear of a proposal of amalgamating the Kotulpur Munsifi with Bishnupur in Bankura district. The reason assigned for the proposed removal is almost similar to the principle,—'Give a dog a bad name and hang it.' The district authorities, we are informed, have recommended the removal mainly on the following grounds—1st, Kotulput is a malarious place; 2nd, no masonry building can safely be erected according to the scientific opinion of the modern engineers. Kotulpur, we are afraid, is as much malarious as any other place in Lower Bengal, Bishnupur at the same time being not free from the scourge of malaria . . . . The jurisdiction of Kotulpur Munsifi (Thanas Kotulpur, Indus and Shiromanipur) forms the eastern part of Bankura district, some of the villages being about 40 miles from Bishnupur. The troubles and hardships no the part of litigants, consequent on travelling such a long distance, there being on railway communication, can better be imagined than described." AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 29th Aug. 1912.

### (g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

Communications in Manikganj.

1454. The Manikganj correspondent of the *Herald* makes the following complaint regarding communications:—"Perhaps no subdivision in Eastern Bengal suffers so much in the matter of communication as Manikganj. The only means of communication which we can speak of is a tri-weekly steamer service connecting us HERALD, 23rd Aug. 1912.

with Dacca. For about two years it was run daily, and since the unfortunate misunderstanding with the District Board of Dacca it has degenerated into a tri-weekly one. We have no doubt that the service, if run daily, will not only remove a serious grievance of the travelling public, but will evidently bring in much revenue to the company concerned. This is the view of all men who have a knowledge of the service, except perhaps Mr. Reid, the Joint-Agent, who seems to be pinning his faith to the erroneous idea that its conversion into a daily service will only increase his responsibility and trouble without being a source of profit to his employers. The service, if I remember aright, was made daily through the exertions of that young and energetic Joint-Agent, Mr. Havelock, with whose transfer the Dhuleswary Service worsened from the view-point of the passenger. There seems to be no hope of the redress of this grievance, unless and until Government can be induced to interfere. We would therefore appeal to His Excellency Lord Carmichael to remove this long standing grievance. I should like to bring in passing another grievance to the notice of the steamer company, Dacca and Betilaghat,—the latter being the nearest station to the head-quarters of this subdivision,—are the two stations where the largest number of passengers are booked in this line.

The steamers now leave Betilaghat for Dacca between the hours of half past-six and seven in the morning. If the timing is changed, so that the steamers leave at 8 in the morning, and passengers are conveyed, during the flood seasons, in a boat from the head-quarters to the Betilaghat station, a distance of about three miles, a great inconvenience will have been removed. Of course a boat should also carry passengers from the Betilaghat station to the head-quarters of the subdivision in the afternoon, when the steamer arrives from Dacca."

INDIAN MIRROR, 24th Aug. 1912.

Railway communications between Dacca and Goalundo.

1455. "A Voice from Dacca," writing to the *Indian Mirror* says:—"If there cannot be railway communication between Dacca and Goalundo, I believe water communication may be made considerably shorter by cutting a canal from Sialo (opposite to Goalundo) to Sabbar, which is a few miles up Dacca at the junction of the *Buriganga* and the *Dhalleswari*. The old bed of the *Itchamati* may be utilised by cutting all her twists and turns. A canal will make boat journey between Goalundo and Dacca much *safer* and *cheaper*, and a system of small steamers, towing the boats, might be introduced. I am very much pleased to find that Lord Carmichael his given no countenance to the project of a railway between Dacca and Goaluudo, as the earthwork would likely be swept away even before the sleepers and rails were put on it. His Excellency will now please to consider the proposal of the Rajah of Santosh, and to call for estimate for a canal between Dacca and Goalundo."

BENGALEE, 27th Aug. 1912.

Station for Aurangabad.

1456. The *Bengalee's* own correspondent at Aurangabad writes that the local public have learnt with regret that no road-side station is intended to be opened at Aurangabad, an old town on the B. A. K. line under construction. The importance of Aurangabad is shown by the fact that the thriving bazar of Aurangabad is a seat of trade and commerce, that Aurangabad is the only place between Dhuliyan and Jangipore where there is a regular station on the steamer lines of the C. S. N. Co. There is a Sub-Registry office at Aurangabad, and many a person daily attends this office from places up and down the line under construction. It is hoped that the authorities will be kindly disposed to take these and many other things into consideration.

### (*h*)—*General.*

BENGALEE, 24th Aug. 1912.

The Governor's visit to Rajshahi.

1457. A correspondent signing himself "Vox Populi" in a letter to the *Bengalee*, regarding the approaching visit of His Excellency Lord Carmichael to Rajshahi, brings to notice that the Reception Committee with its President, the Hon'ble Raja Bahadur of Dighapatia, which was formed under the presidency of the District Magistrate, Mr. Dunlop, will not be allowed to receive the Governor at the landing ghât, and the proposed tea party which was being arranged by this Committee is now stopped, as the District Officer does not perhaps like

that such a party should entertain His Excellency in the College. The people of the town were much disheartened when suddenly Mr. Dunlop informed the Committee that their organisation and arrangements were not at all necessary. The proceedings and preparations not connected with the Reception Committee were, however, permitted to go on as usual with much enthusiasm. There is a rumour in the town that the cause of the anomaly is due to the local gentlemen not electing an official as the President of the Reception Committee. Is there no remedy. the correspondent enquires, for such whims and caprices, and when are all these to come to an end?

Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar.

1458. Adverting to the allegations against Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, Sylhet, made by Srijut Sasindra Chandra Sinha, into which an official inquiry was to be held, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is informed that the Commissioner of the Surma Valley went down to Maulvi Bazar and had an interview with Sasindra Babu. After the interview the Commissioner is said to have stayed at Maulvi Bazar for two days and examined some clerks in reference to the complaints against Mr. Gordon. Hence it is supposed an inquiry was held in that connection. But more than two months having elapsed since then, and nothing further having been heard in the matter, it is believed all the papers relating thereto have been filed. The journal ventures to hope that Sir A. Earle, whose appointment as Chief Commissioner was hailed with sincere delight by the people of the province, will take necessary steps in the matter.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 24th Aug. 1912.

Mr. Ainsley, Subdivisional Officer of Nilphamari.

1459. The Rungpore correspondent of the *Bengalee* brings to notice that some serious allegations have been made against Mr. Ainsley, the Subdivisional Officer of Nilphamari. For twenty days this responsible officer refused to accept any petition of complaint, and the aggrieved suitors had no choice but to lay their grievances before Mr. De, who promptly took up the matter and went to the subdivision to see things for himself. Is this Mr. Ainsley the same gentleman who insulted Mr. J. Chaudhuri a few years ago, the journal enquires? If so, it is bound to say that Mr. Ainsley has too long been permitted to have his own way. The complaints made are sufficiently serious and sufficiently definite to call for an immediate inquiry. The paper hopes such an inquiry will be held. Lord Carmichael's government has already acquired for itself the reputation of being responsive to public opinion and anxious to take the public into its confidence in all matters affecting their interests.

BENGALEE, 24th Aug. 1912.

Assistant Private Secretary.

1460. With reference to the proposal that the Viceroy and the Provincial Governors might do a world of good by appointing an Assistant Private Secretary on their personal staff from among the higher class educated Indian community, the *Telegraph* writes:—"In Bengal His Excellency's choice of a Private Secretary has fallen on the best man available; and there is not another name which would produce the same happy feelings. All the same, the duties of the Private Secretary are so exacting and constant, specially now that Bengal has been raised to the level and standard of a Presidency, that it would not be waste of public funds to create the office of an Assistant Private Secretary, which would, as a rule, be held by an Indian either in or outside the service. Such a measure would not only relieve the Private Secretary of much routine work and enable him to render greater aid to his Chief, but be a great help at functions, at ascertaining the views of the educated Indian community and at feeling the pulse of the nation. In making this suggestion, we hope Lord Carmichael will graciously bestow His Lordship's best attention on the subject."

TELEGRAPH, 24th Aug. 1912.

Cess re-valuation at Barisal.

1461. The *Bengalee* learns from its Barisal correspondent that Mr. Nelson, who as Collector has been taking a very keen interest in the matter of cess re-valuation, has been transferred to Rajshahi. As the departure of the Collector at this stage of the enquiry will cause much confusion, the journal writes:—"That it agrees with its correspondent in thinking that Mr. Nelson should be permitted to remain at Barisal till the matter is finally settled. As it pointed out in a recent issue, the question of cess re-valuation has excited very considerable interest and no little anxiety at Barisal, and this for very good reason. At

BENGALEE, 24th Aug. 1912.

such a time to transfer an officer who is credited with the desire and the ability to improve the condition of things would be a very great mistake; the paper can only hope that the authorities will reconsider their decision in this case."

COMRADE, 24th Aug. 1912.

Visitors to the Delhi Mosque.

1462. The *Comrade* takes great exception to the practice of European visitors strolling within the precincts and in the courtyard of the Jumma Masjid of Delhi without either taking off their boots or putting on boot coverings. "Government has been repeatedly approached to put a stop to such desecration of the sacred precincts of the mosque, but somehow it did not consider that the gratitude of a community was a valuable enough asset to be secured at the cost of a very slight inconvenience to an occasional globe-trotter. We would be the last to object to the Government's uniform solicitude for the convenience of sightseers. But we would like to point out, what is, however, only too patent, that a mosque is a place of worship first, and a sight for the globe-trotter afterwards. No amount of antiquary interest or gaping curiosity can possibly be held to justify a violation of its sanctity. Such indifference to Moslem susceptibilties might not have been so difficult to account for in the days just following the Mutiny, when, notwithstanding the generous help received from the Muhammadan States in quelling the rising and the uniform efforts made by Muhammadan gentlemen of the late Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in protecting unfortunate Englishmen and appeasing the mob, the Government persisted in looking upon the Muhammadans as rebels; but it is little short of reprehensible in these days of peaceful progress" . . . . We trust the new Delhi administration will take an early opportunity to remove such a dark blot on that professed policy of religious toleration which has been one of the bed-rocks of the British Rule in India . . . . The Moslem public feels very strongly on the subject, and they certainly have a perfect right to raise a general protest against a desecration the like of which, we might be quite sure, the Government will not suffer to be perpetrated in a place held sacred by the Christian citizens of the British Empire. We hope the good Christians are not forgetting the great biblical Commandment about doing unto others as ye would have them do unto thee."

BENGALEE, 25th Aug. 1912.

Mr. Madge's resolution.

1463. With reference to the proposal of the Hon'ble Mr. Madge that the Government of India should take up the question of forming an Anglo-Indian regiment on pay and allowance equal to those of British soldiers, the *Bengalee* urges:—"If a proposal like the one made by Mr. Madge were to be entertained, the chief ground for entertaining it, one would think, would be its cheapness. In the present case, however, Mr. Madge deliberately discards this ground by insisting that the recruits should be engaged on pay and allowances equal to those of Britsh soldiers. On what ground then are the Council expected to recommend the experiment? The question of cheapness apart, the formation of a regiment from among the domiciled community would appear to most sensible people to be part of a much wider problem."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 26th Aug. 1912.

His Excellency the Governor and the grievances of the people.

1464. "His Excellency's attitude in enquring about the condition of the country through the men who have a personal knowledge of village life and conditions," writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, cannot be too highly commended. It shows that our Governor is going to foreswear the stereotyped path of seeing through official eyes and hearing through official ears only. But if His Excellency means by "the co-operation of the people" any substantial contribution from them towards the funds required for the purpose, we can only exclaim "alas"! For, if the Government, with its endless resources, are often so much handicapped for want of funds, in spite of its earnest desire to help the people, how much more so must the people be who are proverbially poor? Indeed, they cannot be so foolish as to keep their wealth hidden and thereby bring on their own heads sufferings caused by want of drinking-water and beg in vain of every official—from the Subdivisional Officer to the Governor—for this prime necessary of life.

BENGALEE, 28th Aug. 1912.

European officers in the Civil Service.

1465. Referring to the statement made by the *Times* that one of the duties of the Royal Commission would be to examine the question of the maintenance of a minimum of European officers in the higher posts in India, the *Bengalee* writes:—"So far as European officers *are* necessary in India's

interests, India will doubtless employ them. But necessity is one thing; insistence upon an irreducible minimum quite another. Necessity, says the proverb, has no law, and it may be taken for granted that if suitable European officers are available, and if and so far as India requires their services, she will employ them even without any insistence on the part of the *Times* or any other journal upon the employment of a minimum of European officers. . . . . For ourselves, while we do not object to Europeans as Europeans, we are not prepared for a moment to admit that the maintenance of a minimum of European officers is necessary in our interest, or is even acceptable as a matter of principle. The Proclamation of the late Queen, in recognising the general equality of Indians for administrative appointments, definitely laid the axe at the root of all claims based upon assumptions of racial superiority. And the Queen's Proclamation has, for more than half a century, been our great charter, and will continue to be so until the pledges contained in it have been fully redeemed."

The Prince of Wales ward.

1466. With regard to the communication from Babu Sarat Chandra Paul, bringing to light certain grave instances of shortcomings in the management of the Prince of Wales ward attached to the Medical College, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes:—"The institution was started with Indian funds (we suppose it was the Maharaja of Darbhanga's donation that gave birth to it) and for the benefit of Indian patients, and one wonders it can be associated with the irritating and invidious distinctions the latter discloses. Possibly the nurses have their explanations. At any rate a sifting and impartial inquiry into the ways and means adopted in this ward towards Indian patients in general is imperatively needed both in the interests of the public as well as the reputation of those who are entrusted with its management."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 29th Aug. 1913.

The *Punjab Advocate*.

1467. With regard to the forfeiture of the security of Rs. 2,000 deposited by the *Punjab Advocate*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* quotes the notice issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, and remarks:—"What is the meaning of the expression, 'to bring Government into contempt or harted.' Surely it is not to criticise Government measures or the acts of officials, but to create a disgust for British rule. This many offici als do by their high-handed proceedings, and what the newspapers do is to criticise these proceedings, and that is regarded as having a tendency to bring Government into hatred or contempt. And for doing this legitimate function, in the interests of the Empire they are punished, and the offending officials excused."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 29th Aug. 1913.

## III.—LEGISLATION.

The Press Act.

1468. In the course of an article on the Press Act, the *Telegraph* remarks:—"The Indian press has been incessantly praying to the authorities to relax the severity and stringency of the law, but to no avail. On the other hand, no action is taken in the case of Anglo-Indian journals when they create race-antipathies or hurl invectives against communities. The way Mr. Justice Fletcher is being abused and attacked in the Anglo-Indian press is a case in point. This difference in treatment accorded to the two divisions of the Indian press is a matter of sore complaint to the children of the soil. We were in expectation that from Lord Hardinge, at least, we would receive satisfaction in this and kindred matters; and we would be excused if we add that we have been sorely disappointed."

TELEGRAPH, 24th Aug. 1913.

The Council Regulations.

1469. Now that the Council Regulations are under the consideration of the Government of India, the *Bengalee* has again taken up the question. "The Regulations," it asserts, "have satisfied no one. Even those who are responsible for it cannot view their handiwork with complacency. Lord Minto made no secret of what he thought of them. When freed from the restraints of office and he could speak out his mind, he said that they were amazingly confusing. The Muhammadans are not satisfied with them. The Hindus have condemned them in unequivocal terms. The educated community complain that they have been relegated to a back-seat, though it is notorious that the expansion and

BENGALEE, 37th Apl. 1913.

reform of the Councils was largely due to their efforts. It is no exaggeration to say that the beneficence of the Reform Scheme has been largely neutralized by these unfortunate regulations. Their unsatisfactory character was recognized from the very outset. Sir Edward Baker declared that they were not like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, and that they would be modified in the light of experience; and he proved the sincerity of his convictions by promptly changing one of the most objectionable of these regulations even before the necessary experience had been acquired. The regulations have now been in operation for three years, and the Government ought to be in possession of sufficient materials for their modification upon right lines. And, surely in a matter like this, the recommendations of the Provincial Governments, tempered by the liberality of the Government of India, should be followed."

## VI.—Miscellaneous.

Telegraph, 24th Aug. 1912.

Relation between Biharis and Bengalis.

1470. Commenting on the relations between Biharis and Bengalis, the *Telegraph* remarks:—"When it is said in the press that young Bihar is staturated and moved by anti-Bengali feeling, it is not altogether a myth. We know that the Government has played into the hands of the young Bihar party by making a separate province of it. Time will show how far the tactics of the younger generation of Biharis will contribute to true advancement and prosperity; but every one must admit that whatever improvement there has been so far, is attributable to the ungrudging help of the Bengalis. . . . It is peace and harmony which should be the objective of all true sons of India. If the Indians are still a negligible quantity as a nation, it is because of the race animosities and internecine bitterness created and fostered by certain people who are animated by self-interest to dig the grave of national solidarity and national prosperity."

Herald, 26th Aug. 1912.

The people *versus* The Executive.

1474. In the course of an article based on the result of the Midnapore case, the *Herald* writes:—"After Bengal had been ruthlessly sundered into two the misery of its people did not end there. Not only was a deaf ear presented to all their prayers from almost all quarters in turn, but insult was added to injury in various other forms. One of these was the aggressive attitude of the Executive from which people in some prominent places suffered most. Among these are the names that fought disinterestedly in these cases to vindicate the popular cause. It did not often matter who exactly was the party opposed to oppression. Whenever the subject matter of dispute concerned peoples' cause, some one or other of our leaders came forward to vindicate the popular rights. In case of Barisal and Comilla we all know the parties who at great sacrifice to themselves stood for the rights of the people. Recently the Mymensingh struggle has ended dismally for the country. Babu Brojendra Kishore who fought on behalf of the people is held in the same regard and affection if not more, though his case was reversed. The case of Midnapore up to now is exactly similar. The efforts to vindicate the popular rights have ended finally in a way with which we shall deal later on. The struggle has been unprecidented and extraordinary exacting from the band of patriots engaged in its stamina and resources of an equally great degree. Mr. K. B. Dutt is the leader of these honoured men of Midnapore. Not only the people of his district but whole Bengal is indebted to them. Mr. Dutt has sacrificed for the last few years all other things to continue the fight which has now for the time ended. Bengal knows how to honour such a son. All the places in Bengal, one after another, will express high appreciation of Mr. Dutt's services as Dacca did the other day. From meetings in every places the voice of the people will express in clear terms the position that Mr. Dutt occupies in their estimation."

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29th Aug. 1912.

Kayasthas in Mymensingh.

1472. With reference to an impressive ceremony in Mymensingh on the 18th August at which two hundred leading Kayasthas of East Bengal were present to adopt the sacred thread, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* own correspondent at Mymensingh writes:—

"This interesting affair has taken the whole of Mymensingh by surprise, and is expected to create some sensation throughout Eastern Bengal by reason of its suddenness and breaking Kayasthas orthodoxy as conceived by the older classes ; for though the number of the initiated is small, the affair has touched in some way or other almost every important centre of the different 'Kayastha Somajes' of Eastern Bengal. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Kayastha community have at last awakened from their stupor of ages and realised their true position in the society. It is high time that those Kayasthas, who have not yet asserted their legitimate right of wearing sacred thread, should do so without further wasting their time. It is expected that a good number of respectable Kayasthas will take up sacred thread before the *Pujas*. We hope and trust the whole Kayastha community of Mymensingh will rise equal to the occassion, and try heart and soul to further the cause of their own community."

J. S. WILSON,
*Special Assistant.*

OFFICE OF THE BENGAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH,
9, ELYSIUM ROW,
*The 31st August 1912.*

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